Christian Herald



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You won't hear his plaintive little voice... or the timid shuffle of his cold little feet. But he'll be there, watching wistfully from across the sea. Yes, again this year you'll want to enjoy all the happy festivities of the holiday season. But, please...won't you "make room" for a little stranger?

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Christmas season will mean more to you in the realization that you have "made room at your table" for a homeless, hungry child.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . ye have done it unto Me?"

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DECEMBER, 1958

A FAMILY MAGAZINE, independent and interdenominational... dedicated to the promotion of evangelical Christianity, church unity, religious and racial understanding, world peace, the solving of the liquor problem, the service of the needy, co-operation with all who seek a more Christian world.

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next month

Does Faith Prevent Mental Illness? Mental breakdowns of Christians usually evoke two unkind comments: (1) "Religion drove him crazy"; and/or (2) "Why didn't his religion prevent it?" Dr. Orville S. Walters, Lecturer in Psychiatry at the University of Illinois and graduate of the Menninger School of Psychiatry, explains the kinds of mental disturbances, tells the part that religious faith plays in each.

The Colonel. George Cornell, chief religious writer for the Associated Press, and author of the recent book, They Knew Jesus, reports the fascinating story of Ben Moring, young Negro seminarian, who is

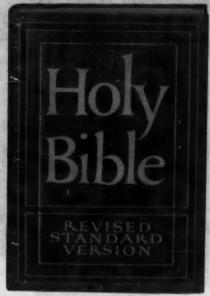
teaching orthodox faith to New York's potential juvenile hoodlums by an unorthodox mixture of Marine Corps discipline and missionary devotion.

Alaska. You've been reading about the physical characteristics, job opportunities, tourist attractions of State Number 49. Here is the not-so-well-known story of what religion in Alaska is like, how it got there, where it's going.

Charity CAN Begin at Home. Allan J. Parker gives you the facts you've been wanting to know about annuities-especially the kind that let you demonstrate your spiritual concern while you earn.

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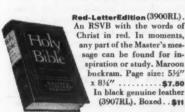
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Doctor POLING ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Mrs. Poling; Dr. Poling. He is holding the Westchester County (N.Y.) Amer. Legion Americanism Award.

Christian College

What is a Christian college? I am on a panel at our small Evangelical United Brethren College here at Le Mars and we are discussing this question. What is your answer?

Iowa Mrs. E. K.

My father was for several years president of the college in Le Mars when it was Western Union College. The answer to the question is, your own college. It is, of course, not a complete answer.

The overall answer is just this: that a Christian college is a college in which the person, the life and the teachings of Jesus Christ are central. In other words, a Christian college is a Christ-centered college.

ACLU

What do you think of the American Civil Liberties Union?

New York C, de

I think with mixed feelings. I do not care to associate myself with the organization, though some splendid Americans are identified with it. However, it is a mixed group and its activities, as of my humble opinion and conviction, are too often on the wrong side of what should be our united effort to oppose Communism and sub-

version and to keep American freedoms free.

Prayer Posture

Do you not think that kneeling in prayer is more desirable than any other posture?

Оню Т.А.Р.

I quite agree with you, All my life it has been my practice, both in private and in public worship, to kneel in prayer. I do appreciate the fact, however, that many other devout Christians have other practices.

Compulsory Retirement

Should a clergyman retire from active service after having reached a stipulated age if he is still physically fit? Paul, the Apostles, and the early church fathers retired only after they drew their last breath. Isn't impaired health the only justifiable reason for retirement?

MINNESOTA J.E.C.

Unfortunately (or is it unfortunate?) the church rules and regulations make retirement "on age" imperative. The preacher has no alternative save, of course, that he may serve as a supply, "stated" or otherwise. Some of the most effective preachers I know on retirement have entered the fields of educa-

tion, business, etc., where they have continued to make a major contribution to men, women and children. The calendar is not always "the wise guy"—but it is the calendar.

Aylward Activities

Have you any further word concerning Gladys Aylward, "The Small Woman," and her moving picture? Georgia Mrs. A.G.

No further word other than press releases concerning this picture. But Cladys Alyward herself recently conducted a three-week preaching mission on Free China's first line of defense, the off-shore island of Kinmen. In her meetings with the troops, scores signified their desire to accept Christ as their Savior. Miss Aylward is a Chinese citizen and received a warm welcome wherever she went. She speaks Chinese fluently.

Anti-religious Education?

The State University counsel has ruled out on-campus worship services and ordered the chapel at Buffalo State Teachers' College redesignated a "meditation room." Counsel John C. Crary, Jr. stated that on-campus worship services are incompatible with constitutional provisions on Church-State separation. Dean Gordon J. Klops ad-

vised student religious groups that worship services will no longer be held in this former chapel. In the past, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups conducted services in this chapel. What do you think of this?

NEW YORK A.T.N.

What I think makes little difference. But I regret the action taken, and I sadly regret that certain groups have brought to bear the pressure that has resulted in the closing of this chapel which served three faiths. The action itself, as I see it, is not good for student life or for American unity in the city of Buffalo.

War Issues

Apparently you disagree with former Secretary of State Acheson's assertion that the Eisenhower administration is leading the United States toward war with Red China over issues "which are not worth a single American life." Do you disagree?

VIRGINIA

That is a particularly poignant statement to those of us who are of that multitude of Americans whose sons died in World War II and in the Korean war. But nevertheless I do disagree with Mr. Acheson. Also, accord-

ing to his forthright statement in the daily press on Sunday, September 14th, former President Harry S. Truman disagrees with Mr. Acheson, who served as his Secretary of State. In that statement Mr. Truman called for a firm stand to curb the Peiping thrusts. He said. "I do not go along with some of our leaders, including some of my own party . . . as to Quemoy and Matsu. They miss the main point, etc., etc. . . . Also, I am reminded that Mr. Acheson declared Korea "outside our Pacific defense perimeter." He gave then, with the withdrawal of our troops from Korea, the "green light" for Communist invasion and all but conquest of Korea. That was, I believe, the tragic mistake that led directly to the Korean war and to the loss of tens of thousands of precious lives.

No, I do not agree with Mr. Acheson. I do agree with President Eisenhower and former President Truman.

Cremation

What is your opinion about cremation?

OHIO MRS. J.S.

It is my opinion that this is a matter of personal choice and individual pref-

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VIRGINIA

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WYOMING

THE LONELY SHEPHERD

"The other day I met a shepherd on a mountain slope to whom I offered some tracts, saying, You who live in such a lonely place-if you accept Jesus Christ, you will be happy forever.' As he poured out to me all his bitter sorrows, I told him that the Word of God is the only medicine that can cure the wounds of the heart.

"Next day I went to give him a New Testament, for which he was very grateful. He said that he and some other shepherds had read the tracts I gave him and that it was the first time in their lives they had heard of salvation through Christ. I asked him whether he realized that he was a sinner, and he said that he did, 'Do you know why Jesus came to this world and died?' I continued. 'To cleanse us from sin,' he answered, 'Then why don't you go to Him to save you?' I asked. As I talked on, he became more and more thoughtful. Yes, I want to be saved,' were his last words that evening."

Thus Gregory, a student at our Macedonian Bible Institute who knows what it is to suffer persecution for the cause of Christ, tells of his encounter with a seeking soul. The school which he attends is unique in Greece. It was founded to train young men and women for full-time Christian service and to do missionary work while they are still in training. Even more important than our many-sided relief program is the preparation of young Greeks to reach their own people with the Gospel. How would you like to help fit a young man or woman for the Lord's service in Greece? If you would be interested in a full (\$25 a month) or part scholarship, we will be glad to send you the picture and testimony of the one you are helping. Also you will have the thrill of personal correspondence. Just write to the American Mission to Greeks, Inc., Rev. Spiros Zodhiates, General Secretary, Dept. H, P.O. Box 423, New York 36, N.Y. (In Canada: 90 Duplex Ave., Toronto 7, Ont.)

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LETTERS

Left Out of Minnesota

In October Letters someone mentioned her disappointment that her church is not among those recorded in the splendid article on Minnesota by Willmar Thorkelson (August). I, too, have a feeling of "leftoutness," since my church, the Disciples of Christ, is also omitted. The Disciples of Christ, have records going back into territorial days, which gives them a place among those who braved danger and hardship in Minnesota's early evangelism. Several churches have already celebrated their centennial year and others will soon do so.

Oakland, Calif. ADA L. FORSTER

... There are such a lot of Covenant churches in Minnesota, and in the twin cities alone there are some twenty churches. Why didn't he mention them?

Chariton, Iowa Anna Gustafson

• He did mention First Covenant Church in Minneapolis as having "phenomenal records of missionary giving."

More on the Fifth Year

In view of the response to the article by Jonathan Daniels in your August issue (The Fifth Year) I write to assure you that not everyone in the South shares the feeling of resentment over the picture you published. I for one rejoiced that perhaps we are on the way to becoming as Christian as we have pretended.

Usually arguments about God's wanting the races separated are based upon erroneous interpretations of such Old Testament stories as the confusion of tongues or the supposed "curse of Ham." Everyone ought to reread Genesis 9:20-26 and discover that it was Canaan, not Ham, who was cursed; that it was Noah, not God, who pronounced the curse, and that no one's skin was turned black!

Stuart, Florida

REV. W. GODDARD SHERMAN

... The Negroes were brought here by force in the first place to help satisfy the white man's greed. Now that they are here they should be treated as human beings.

Warren, Minn, GLADYS L. NICHOLLS

... There are many passages that forbid intermarriage and also we are to shun evil companions, but as to living, associating in business dealings, fellowship with each other, working side by side even in worship, we must accept and learn to respect others and have no animosity toward others. Our children in years to come, as they receive the light of the precious Word, will sense the wrong attitude and wish we had not made the mistake we are making. Massillon, Ohio Samuel Garratt

... My children, especially my 10year-old, consider the picture [of an integrated class in a Louisville, Ky. school] fine to show how happy Negroes can be even when outnumbered.

Anyhow, the quitters are missing a wonderful issue (Oct.). Who can want to miss Catherine Marshall, for instance? I also found "My Son Lost His Mind" well written, full of insight.

Thousand Oaks, Calif.

MRS, D. A. BALLARD

Correction

I write to protest against your insertion in my article, "God Killer That Failed" (Sept.) of the phrase, "Though the Orthodox Church hierarchy has been used by the Kremlin." This one phrase could ruin my friendly relations with leaders of the Russian Church,

New York, N. Y. DONALD A. LOWRIE

• The disputed passage, which should have appeared as an editorial comment since it expresses the conviction of Christian Herald, mistakenly was interpolated in the article itself. We hope this explanation takes Mr. Lowrie off the hook.

October Comments

It was a joy to receive the anniversary issue (Oct.) with the old familiar face of our beloved Prince of Preachers, Mr. Spurgeon. I was not born when Mr. Spurgeon preached in our city of Dundee, Scotland, but my mother never forgot that occasion. We use daily at our family worship a copy of Mr. Spurgeon's Gems dated 1883.

Port Orange, Fla. JOSEPH G. ORAM

... When I saw the cover I remembered that I had an old copy somewhere. When I found it I saw it was a Thanksgiving issue, November 28, 1906—almost 52 years old, addressed to my father.

Rome, N.Y.

MRS. GEORGE H. BLAKE

... Your article on Communion (Lord, Is It I?) was a real inspiration to me. It is one which I intend to keep always. Los Angeles, Calif.

LINDA JUVINALL

... I especially enjoyed "Devotions for Women" in the October issue. This is very helpful in preparing programs for women's associations.

Bourbon, Indiana

MRS. L. O. FETTERS



"Because I tossed and turned all night, my doctor started me on Postum"

"You know how it is, sometimes you just don't sleep right.

Take me, I was tired at night, but I couldn't seem to settle down. Began to get me down, I'll tell you.

"Finally, I went to the doctor. He said sometimes this can be caused by too much coffee. Some people just can't take all the caffein in coffee, especially at certain times. He suggested I switch to Postum, told me Postum was 100% coffee-free—couldn't keep anyone awake.

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"X REMEMBER."

Selected by RACHEL HARTMAN

LORD, in the quiet of this morning hour I come to Thee for peace, for wisdom, power To view the world today through love-filled eyes, Be patient, understanding, gentle, wise; To see beyond what seems to be, and know Thy children as Thou knowest them, and so Naught but the good in anyone behold; Make deaf my ears to slander that is told. Silence my tongue to aught that is unkind. Let only thoughts that bless dwell in my mind. Let me so kindly be, so full of cheer That all I meet may feel Thee near. Oh, clothe me in Thy beauty, this I pray. Let me reveal Thee, Lord, through all the day.

—Ella Syfers Schenck From George Lamb, East Orange, N. J., Clara Rewald, Williamsburg, Mich. and Mrs. Norman D'Evelyn, Piedmont, Calif.

IT'S a wonderful joy to be able to give a day. Think of all the joy and happiness that can be crowded into a day, sometimes idle, sometimes wasted, more often filled with toil and busy hours, gone so quickly. Just a day! How we wish we could hold some of them, make them linger. Let us be thankful for memory which makes that possible—a day of helpfulness, many days of service given us by a friend. If I can hold in my hands the opportunity to give my friend those hours for a day, what a joy to be allowed to do so. What a privilege—a gift of love, a Day.

Grace Boomer Moore From Ethel M. Brown, Dighton, Mass.

When man perceives his heart to be The place of the Nativity And lives with that transforming fact Underlying thought and act, And keeps this lowly shelter fit To welcome, nurture and transmit Immortal love, then Christmas may Be celebrated every day And peace on earth arrive to stay.

Ruby Morphy From Zenobia Shaver, Kansas, Ill. Who loves New England's many white church steeples Must also love her steepled firs and pines, Young evergreens, alert, awaiting Christmas In some old pasture careless of set lines.

A grove of firs—what lovely green cathedral!

Each tree with one straight spire that points the sky,
Its million turrets caught with silver spangles

That winter frosts have made and hung up high.

Whether of tree or church, the pointing steeple
Rises to clearer light and purer air;
It calls us to look up more trustingly
And bravely face the storms that are our share.

Mary E. Hough

From Mrs. Vincent C. Harris, Etna. N.H.

Christmas is holly and mistletoe And sparkling snowy weather, It is the old sweet carols sung, Gay secrets we plan together.

Small stockings, dim in the hearthlog's glow, Hanging expectantly; A hovering angel, a silver star, At the top of a fragrant tree.

Christmas is all these things—and more— It is loving and sharing and giving; The heart within, where Christ is born, Awakened to glorious living. Nan Houston

The Light of God surrounds you The Love of God enfolds you The Power of God protects you The presence of God watches over you; Where you are, God is, And you are safe and secure.

Author unknown
From Mrs. Vinnie Fanning, Cedar Rapids, Iowa,
and M. Ina Thompson, Moss Point, Miss.



8

Books that are fit for a Christian home...



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ROY DOTY

Peace on Earth-TIL CHRISTMAS!

By POLLY STONE BUCK

AFTER an almost two thousand season "run," it seems to be a safe assumption that the pageant of Christmas is here to stay. We hope Americans are here to stay, too. But for the two of us continue to survive together, some change has got to come about, or Christmas and the American nation, like the gingham dog and the calico cat, will destroy each other.

Wonderful Christmas! But the garish farce we have come to make of it, and what it is doing to us, is shocking.

What has brought about this state of affairs? For one thing, our American desire to do everything in the biggest, splashiest way possible. We were not content with a joyful religious festival in homes and in our Christian churches. Christmas is now a super-mammoth celebration, outdoing the circus as "The Greatest Show on Earth." It has become a commercial spectacle in stores and nightclubs, on juke boxes, radio and TV. And besides the public fanfare, the individual observer of Christmas is going too much, making too much noise, giving too much, receiving too much. We are left weary and unsatisfied with the season that of all seasons should bring the world peace and joy. "Thank heaven, that's over for another year," is our nationwide gasp on the 26th.

A second trouble is that we start too

soon and drag it out over too long a time. "Sooner, sooner!" cry the merchants. "December is hopelessly late to start shopping. November is perilously late, October not a bit too early!" They monopolize two nonths and more out of women's lives every year, to be spenin a perfect dither of that most tiring and uninspiring occupation on the face of the earth: shopping.

If only the money-hungry Christmasmongers would let us alone! There is comparative peace on earth until they start out in full cry. Is it for the sake of Christ's birthday or for the take of the cash register that merchants decorate their stores and the public streets in late October to "push" the "Christmas line"? Christmas has become an economic pillar; stores count desperately on it for its sales-making potential. Liquor dealers know they will do more business in December than in any other month of the year.

"Twenty more shopping days until Christmas!" the newspapers warn, "Nineteen more!" "Eighteen more!" Not "days until Christmas," mind you, but "shopping days."

This Christmas show we take part in each year is an exhausting experience. Gifts must be selected, wrapped, labeled, mailed or delivered in person—to every member of the household.

to the husband's relatives, the wife's

friends and teachers. The laundryman, elevator operator, milkman, mailman, newspaperboy, beautician, barber — anyone, in short, who lifts a finger at any time during the year in the family's direction, must be "remembered." Every friendly acquaintance or business associate of any member of the family must have a greeting card. Every office, every factory, every church group, school, club, family, every individual with access to ice cubes, must give a "party."

relatives, their friends, the children's

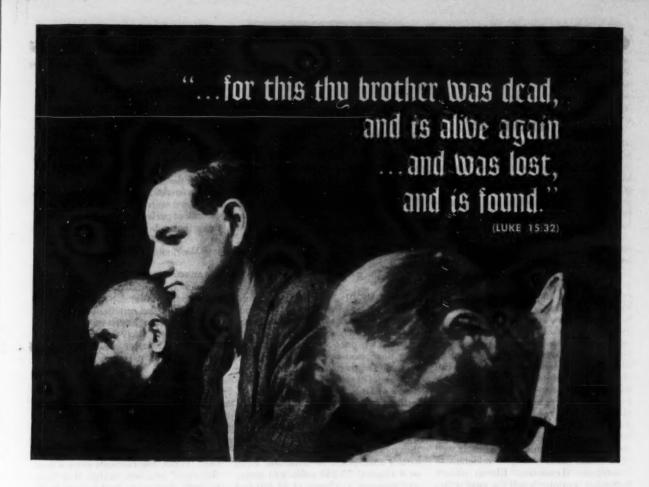
It all adds up to a staggering expenditure of energy. Hail the Season's glad return? One is more likely to cringe as it approaches!

If you do not approve of Christmas as it is now observed, can you do anything about it? Certainly! Work out a new approach for your home and life.

FIRST of all, take advantage of the church's offer of the Advent Season as a time of preparation of ourselves, not preparation of things, for Christ's birthday. And because this is easier to do when we have freed ourselves from the entangling things, here is a suggestion for dealing with distracting Christmas activities.

Begin with this *list* we all have. Haven't we come to a sorry pass when (Continued on page 88)





The Bowery Mission and the Prodigal Son

These words of Our Lord, as He related the beautiful story of the Prodigal Son, are fraught with deep meaning to those of us who work with the Bowery Mission.

For the men we strive to raise up... whose souls we are dedicated to help save... these men are all "prodigal sons."

Each one of them, in the words of Jesus, has been guilty of "wasting his substance with riotous living." Each of them who decides to approach our Mission door in desperate hope has come to himself, and is already on the way to saying with heartfelt humility, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee!"

And, strange as it may seem to some, we love each and every one of these men, and in the same way and for the same reasons that the father in the parable loved his son!

Mere words cannot express the wonderful elation we feel when a repentant soul enters the Mission to seek our help! How humble we feel when we see our "sons" kneel in prayer and ask God's forgiveness! How proud we are when we learn about the triumphant returns our men make

to their families, their jobs and their places in society!

If you, too, would like to share in this great experience of joy and achievement, please help us NOW with our work of salvation through the Bowery Mission!

Turn to Luke 15: 11-32 and re-read the magnificent story of the Prodigal Son. Then, as you are deeply moved by the words of Our Lord, resolve to help us help these men.

Mail your contribution today!

\$50	will provide bodily and spiritual assistance for 60 desolate men
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Gabriel Courier Interprets the News

at home

"NEW IDEAS": Florida's Governor Leroy Collins told the triennial general convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, meeting at Miami Beach: "The people of America are now calling anxiously for new ideas for resolving the racial conflicts which beset them"

If by "new ideas" the Governor means ideas which offer a "magic ingredient," as in toothpaste, neither he nor Episcopalians nor Christendom generally are likely to find them. But if by "new ideas" he means the courage to do what we know we must do, easy or not that is something else again.

And perhaps Governor Collins was right in addressing his remarks to an audience of churchmen, who in a sense stand for all church leaders and followers. For while denominational conclaves adopt racial resolutions with alacrity, and while leading religious personalities endorse "troops and tanks" to enforce the Supreme Court's decisions, the churches-North as well as South-seem strangely reluctant to integrate themselves. Eleven o'clock Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour of the week. The ultimate -and underlying-scandal is not the turning away of Negroes from segregated schools, but the turning away of Negroes (whether they come to prod or to pray) from segregated churches.

H-BOMB: And the "H" is for "hate." The bombing of the Temple of the Reform Jewish Congregation in Atlanta, Georgia, touched off a new wave of madness. President Eisenhower, in the middle of his speech at the dedication of the Interchurch Center Building on Riverside Drive, New York, stopped, took off his glasses, spoke extemporaneously and angrily of America's horror at the brand of American who would destroy a house of worship, be it cathedral, mosque, church or synagogue. Closely following that Atlanta attack, a synagogue in Peoria, Illinois, was damaged. Bomb threatssadistic if nothing else-were uttered against other places of worship, Roman Catholic and Protestant.

What kind of distorted patriotism, what kind of perverted religion does it take, to destroy or threaten a synagogue or church in the name of Americanism or religion? And how do you stop that kind of thing? When you get

right down to it, government depends heavily upon the integrity of the governed. Your personal safety and that of your church or school or business rests not so much upon the ability of your police, important as that is, as upon the common decency of your neighbors. When the decency of people is impaired or destroyed, nobody and nothing are safe. As Editor Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution puts it: "When leadership in high places ... fails to support constituted authority, it opens the gates."

MOON SHOOT: We Americans are a phlegmatic lot when it comes to recognizing our own scientific achievements. Maybe that's good, but seems to this reporter we once in a while overdo our downcast-eyes posture. The launching of the near-miss lunar probe was one of the times. Though Pioneer didn't make it to the moon, it did go farther and faster than any other object ever launched by man-forerunner of what was to follow. Only because it was launched 3.5 degrees off course, the rocket missed, falling back into earth's atmosphere to flame out. Even so it climbed 75,243 miles into space, and achieved a velocity of 34,400 feet a second (when 35,250 was required). And what was America's reaction? A disinterested yawn, But if Russia had done it, picture the public upheaval! Congressmen would have lam-

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER takes trowel from Dr. M. Forest Ashbrook at cornerstone laying for Interchurch Center, N. Y. Irregular stone (upper right) is from the agora in ancient Corinth, gift of Greek Orthodox Church. Dr. Ashbrook is a director in American Baptist Convention.

basted the Administration for letting the Soviets try to get there fustest with the mostest. Editorial writers would have deplored our lack of technical acumen. Newscasters would have crisped the air with their indignant denunciations of America's "humiliation."

But we weren't humiliated. For all the lack of perfection, we still did something that nobody else had ever done. And what did the man in the street say? We quote him: "Ho-hum."

grandchild who has never had a real, genuine train ride, don't wait too long to give him the experience. A report now before the Interstate Commerce Commission predicts the passing of the Pullman and parlor car by 1965 and the demise of passenger coaches by 1970. All that will be left are freight and commuter trains, with the latter in operation only if the railroads are given tax breaks or subsidies they do not now receive.

What's the trouble? Fewer people are riding the trains. Railroad taxes have gone up. Costs of operation have risen. When the railroads need a new "highway" or a new bridge, they have to build their own. And having built, they are promptly slapped with increased taxes to cover the cost of improvement! In their early days railroads were subsidized in the form of land grants for right of ways. But no longer are they the fat cats of the transportation world, and an optimistic railroader is just about an extinct category of individual.

It's not that they haven't tried! They have tried—to the extent of spending more than a billion dollars in ten years to provide new equipment, better service, all the modern equivalents of plush and varnish, in the hope of attracting more customers. It has been a losing fight, and the victor, contrary to scuttlebutt, is not the airlines (which account for only 3.6 per cent of intercity traffic; up 2 per cent in 9 years) but automobiles (which account for a whopping 88 per cent; up 10 per cent in 9 years).

If it comes to the worst, and passenger trains go the way of the Conestoga wagon and interurban trolley car, something immensely romantic and exciting will disappear from the American scene. No longer the beckoning mystery of Adventure Elsewhere conjured by the train whistling over the crossing by day; no longer the

smug self-sufficiency of lighted coach windows gliding along by night. You don't get that feeling, watching the frantic traffic of a turnpike. There is something about a train's onward rush, something purposeful, something to set the pulse leaping and the mind reaching. Something there is that will be stilled, when the only place left for a train to go is Smithsonian Institution.

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COURIER'S CUES: In New York State, municipal officials are finding that bingo is losing, not making, them money; supervisory fees don't cover cost of supervisors. . . . Average income of every man, woman and child in the U.S. is \$2,027-first time to pass the \$2,000 mark in U.S. history..., U.S. and Russia have concluded a film swapping deal, with premieres in Washington and Moscow next year. . . . Needed: legislation to make hi-fi obscenity as vulnerable as the printed variety; in New Iersey, a Superior Court judge dismissed a conviction for the sale of an "obscene" phonograph record, ruling that the ordinance covered only visual material.

An orchid to the Denison, Texas, and Asbury Park, New Jersey, high schools for their decision to grant varsity letters for academic achievement as well as sports attainments.... Inauguration of jet commercial aviation means in effect that world is suddenly 40 per cent smaller. . . . Upping of margin requirements from 70 to 90 per cent is further evidence that Federal Reserve Board is uneasy about unorthodox behavior of stock market. . Did you know that one-third of all women in the U.S. work outside their homes? . . . Watch for more White House resignations; with Ike to be in office only two more years, there's a limited future for his 50 top assistants.

American Cancer Society is planning a house-to-house survey of 1,000,000 Americans to find connection, if any, between cancer and personal habits....It Had to Happen Dept.:



NEW BISHOP, Protestant Episcopal Church, is Rt. Rev. Arthur C. Lichtenberger (right), elected at Miami Beach convention. Left: Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, retiring.

In St. Louis, city parking lots are turning down certain 1959 cars: too long to handle.

And, this Christmas, may you let your eyes adjust to the darkness long enough to see the stars still shining.

abroad

CEASE-FIRE: For strategic reasons, possibly it is essential for "spokesmen" in Washington to maintain that they are "caught completely by surprise" every time something new happens in the world, be it Suez invasion, revolution in Iraq, bombardment of Quemoy, cease-fire in the Formosa straits or the scuttling of a cease-fire. In the last case, we suppose it would hardly be proper to announce, "We knew all along the Chinese Reds couldn't be trusted, and so we negotiated at Warsaw with tongue in cheek." An expression of surprise carries with it an implication of indignation and outrage that is probably important, and is certainly valid. But we wish they'd think up a new expression of emotion that would make U.S. intelligence look a little less flat-footed, a little more on the ball. And to think that certain U.S. military people were actually crowing that the cease-fire was a victory for the U.S.! For whom, then, was the resumption of the bombardment of Quemoy a victory?

Consider the sequence of events. Peiping announced a cease-fire in the most transparent of terms. Red Chinese Defense Minister Peng Teh-huai said blandly: "It is hard for the 130,000 troops and civilians on Quemoy to stand for long the lack of supplies and the pestering hunger and cold. Out of humanitarian considerations, I have ordered the bombardment to be suspended on the Fukien front for seven days." How bland can you get!

What, then, was the reason, and why the subsequent extension of the ceasefire? Was it that the Reds were out of ammunition? That they were tired of the whole thing? That they were startled by the success of the Sidewinder missile against their planes? That they were simply unpredictable?

Or was it a not-so-subtle attempt to drive a wedge between Nationalist China and the U.S.? If so, it almost worked. Seeds of disunity quickly sprouted. Pronouncements in Taipeh and pronouncements in Washington appeared to be at cross purposes. Then Secretary of State Dulles decided to come home from the Pope's funeral by way of Formosa, talk with Chiang face to face. Was it only a coincidence that Peiping resumed the bombardment on the eve of their meeting?

FRANCE: Charles de Gaulle's long wait paid off-magnificently. The Fifth Republic is his practically-singlehanded achievement. DeGaulle took over when France's future was hanging in the balance. Torn by dissension, plagued by mutiny, disheartened by repeated failure, saddled with crushing debt, France was on the edge of anarchy. Then General de Gaulle came out of retirement with his take-itor-leave-it proposition. France took it. There was scarcely a murmur when de Gaulle laid out a new constitution, announced a referendum. As voting day approached, the world's commentators speculated. Would de Gaulle be repudiated or supported? None of them was prepared for the immensity of the pro-constitution, pro-de Gaulle vote that rolled up. In France, 80 per cent of the voters were for him-a vote of confidence unparalleled in the history of democratic nations. In strifetorn Algeria, the vote was an even more amazing 97 per cent. In some other French possessions, the figure went to 98 and 99 per cent.



SHRINE: Restoration of the crumbling home of Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, author of the hymn "America," in Newton, Mass., has been proposed by townspeople who have begun a campaign to preserve it as a museum. Dr. Smith wrote the anthem in 1832.

DECEMBER 1958



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What does it mean? Simply that de Gaulle is now his own man. And inevitably that he will easily be elected President on December 14. He saw to it that the office of President as set down in the new constitution was tailor-made for him. The one question: will the man who follows de Gaulle have the same measurements?

94th: In France's constitutional referendum, each French territory had the chance to say whether it wanted to stay in the French Community, or take its independence and lose French aid. Again General de Gaulle won. Only (French) Guinea, abutting Liberia and Sierra Leone on the underside of Africa's hump, wanted out, with a vote of only 3 per cent for continued attachment to France, Other French possessions can still set up shop for themselves anytime before February 5-a piece of political psychology that will probably quench the desire in most of them for the time being. (Madagascar has proclaimed itself a Republic, but plans to remain in the French orbit.)

Thus the Republic of Guinea becomes the world's 94th nation, after 68 years of French rule. About the size of Colorado, with a population of 2.5 million, the new nation had no money in the treasury, no custom-free French markets (which had accounted for 80 per cent of Guinea's annual trade in coffee, bananas, diamonds and minerals). But the country is rich in bauxite, ore from which aluminum is smelted, and the country has two billion tons of iron ore deposits. These are attracting investors.

Guinea Premier is Sekou Toure, a 36-year-old labor leader, grandson of Samory Toure, last of the great African emperors. A Moslem, he opens political meetings with prayer. He has held practically every top office in the country, from mayor of the capital city of Conakry, up.

One French official has called him "One of the few great Africans of the present generation." Africa, the awakening continent, was going to need all the greatness it could muster.

Gamal Abdel Nasser is working hard at uniting the Arab states. He seems to be succeeding, too, though in an offbeat sort of way. That is, he's uniting the Arabs against him.

Latest dissident was President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, one of the dominant figures in the North African Arab world. Bourguiba has broken diplomatic relations with the United Arab Republic, Nasser's dream empire. In a gesture of Arab unity, Tunisia and Morocco had joined the Arab League (made up of the U.A.R., Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the



Fabian Bachrack

COLEMAN BURKE, treas., World Council of Christian Education, was awarded an honorary degree by Rikkyo U., Tokyo, during 14th annual WCCE Convention on Christian Education. While in the Orient, he visited Christian Herald orphanages. He is a member of the board of Christian Herald Assn., Inc.

Sudan and Yemen). After attending a few sessions, the Tunisian delegate decided that Mr. Nasser was dominating the League, and walked out. This roused the official Cairo radio and press to its routine "Off with his head" chant, meaning President Bourguiba. Tunisia promptly broke off diplomatic relations.

That was just one of Mr. Nasser's problems. In Lebanon, a coalition cabinet (including some members who were cool to Nasser) seemed to be promising a government with stability—a situation which does not encourage Nasser-type incitement. Also, Kuwait, rich in oil (and oil money), has refused to join the Arab League or to kick in with funds to make life easier for Egypt. Iraq is something less than financially generous. Syria, a part of the United Arab Republic, is getting a little weary of taking orders from Cairo. Gamal's glum!

PAKISTAN: A two-man regime set up a revolutionary government in Pakistan, making policy for the army to enforce. This is how it happened, in the words of Gen. Mohammed Ayub Khan, who with President Iskander Mirza, managed the take-over (and who has succeeded Mirza as president): "We both came to the conclusion that the country was going to the dogs. I said to the president: 'Are you going to act or are you not going to act?'" So President Mirza acted.

Mirza did not claim to be retaining the office to which he was elected under the constitution by constitutional authority, for he discarded the constitution. "My authority is revolution," he said. "I have no sanction in law or the constitution. I saved the country from a disaster which would have been bloody revolution." The two agree that the present regime is not the final answer. "We have got to go back to democracy," Gen. Ayub said. "We must make it work. But unfortunately, in the first flush of independence, our fellows adopted a system the people didn't understand."

Well, there you have it. A chummy revolution. The country was going to the dogs and I said to Joe—

church news

revangelism: In two meetings half a nation apart, impressive calls to action were bugled. In Des Moines, Iowa, at the 13th annual National Sunday School Convention, the Rev. Howard G. Hendricks of Dallas Theological Seminary, talked on the trenchant theme, "Christian, Come Out of Your Hole." Christ, he said, never invited the unconverted to church, but told the church to go to the lost. "The average church has a sign, 'Welcome,' but does little if no one comes."

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And in New York, at the 75th annual Bible and Missionary Convention of the Gospel Tabernacle (Christian and Missionary Alliance), visiting speaker Oswald J. Smith, pastor of People's Church, Toronto, loosed another barb that had ample mark to find. The bushy-haired evangelist who has preached in more than 60 countries pointed out that for 2000 years Christian churches have been doing "a hundred and one things that Christ never asked them to do," but have left undone the one thing He specifically commanded—" 'to preach the Gospel to every creature,'"

GIFT: We came upon a heartwarming story from Copenhagen, Denmark. Councilmen of the Lutheran Cathedral of Copenhagen needed a handmade chasuble (an outer vestment worn by liturgical pastors). They knew that the sisters of the Roman Catholic Convent of St. Joseph in Bavaria, Germany, were skilled at this kind of needlework. "How much would one cost?" the church officials inquired. The sisters replied that they would like to make the vestment as a gift for the Cathedral. Presentation of the hand-embroidered piece was made recently. The Lutheran Cathedral, in appreciation, collected a donation for the work of the German sisters.

COLLEGE: Another kind of co-operation was taking shape in St. Petersburg,

LIANG MEI NEEDS A GLASS SLIPPER

An orphan, Liang Mei lives with a widowed stepmother in a squatter's hut, 12 x 12 feet in size, in which three other families exist. This is in a section of Hong Kong where three to five people sleep to a bed, with a population of 2,000 to the acre, where 80% have TB, 95% need dental care and 75,000 children are unable to attend school. Liang Mei begs for and collects garbage ten hours a day and acts as a baby sitter for two or three extra hours after she gets to what she calls home. It is true that she is not quite as bad off as some refugee children because she gets first pick of the garbage which is really pretty much what she lives on.

But she deserves a glass slipper because she is by nature a sweet, bright and interesting child. It would not be difficult to make a fine lady out of this little garbage collector. A month in a CCF Home and she would be transformed into "a beautiful princess."

Hong Kong, a British possession adjacent to Communist China, in 1947 had a population of 1,800,000. Today the flood of refugees from Red China has increased the population to approximately 4,000,000. The Hong Kong Government is doing a noble work in



Liang Mei

trying to assist these freedom-loving newcomers but the task is gigantic. Children like Liang Mei can be "adopted" and admitted to the nine CCF Homes in Hong Kong, which include Children's Garden, the largest cottageplan Home in the Far East. The cost is the same in Hong Kong as in all the countries listed—\$10 a month.

Christian Children's Fund, incorporated in 1938, with its 288 affiliated orphanage schools in 35 countries, is the largest Protestant orphanage organization in the world. It serves 25 million meals a year. It is registered with the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Aid of the International Cooperation Administration of the United States Government. It is experienced, efficient, economical and conscientious.

Africa (Central), Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Borneo, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Free China, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Lapland, Lebanon, Macao, Malaya, Mexico, Okinawa, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Syria, United States, Vietnam, Western Germany, American Indians.

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Florida, one of the fast-growing states of the union. The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (Northern) and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern) are jointly developing plans for Florida Presbyterian College, which may open as early as next year and by 1961 be in its own buildings. The new school is to be operated by the two denominations, both of which had plans for separate colleges in Florida but decided to combine their efforts.

It was not so long ago that the Southern wing of Presbyterianism turned down a merger with the two Northern wings (which have since united). But here is merger at the grassroots, where it is always most effective and where it eventually has to operate anyway. Perhaps this "merger" will do its leavening work upward.

DEVILS: A proposal to set up a theological commission to investigate the possibility that demons cause illness was rejected by the lower house of the Convocation of Canterbury, in London. The commission's report, made public last June, stated that some members of the subcommittee "were not persuaded that demons may cause or complicate any malady. Yet, on the other hand, they recognize that medical knowledge is not, and cannot ever be, comprehensive, and that they would not like to assert a priori that no case will ever be found of such an unusual character as suggests the need for exorcism." Archdeacon Maxwell Tullock Dunlop, in proposing the commission, said he had been personally disturbed by the reference to exorcism. He said he hoped that the Church "is not going to make itself ridiculous by appearing to believe in hobgoblins, gremlins and things that go bumpbump in the night.

Another speaker stated: "I would rather believe that they [devils] exist than that they do not. If they do exist, they explain a great many almost insoluble problems." Others took pro and

con positions.

Gem that wound up the discussion was this one by the Rev. Maurice Wood, regretting the lack of decision one way or the other: "Newspaper headlines that the Church of England does not believe in devils are bad enough, but headlines that the Church does not know whether it believes in devils or not are worse."

stance that attended him during his reign, he was laid to rest. For 19 years he had served as the leader of 450,000,000 Roman Catholics, more subjects than are claimed by any temporal state except Communist China. His people called him the Vicar of Christ. We would rather call him a Vicar of Men



It's Christ's Birthday but the Guests Are Yours

Yes, you are host to these men celebrating the greatest of all Birthdays. And how desperately they need your hospitality!

For these are the unwanted, the unloved, the despairing men of the Bowery. And in your name, your Bowery Mission invites them in for an extra measure of warmth and comfort and joy befitting this glorious Day of Days.

Here they find a beautifully decorated Christmas tree and individual gifts wrapped in gay paper and ribbons. They join in singing the oldtime carols. They partake of a hearty Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings. But most of all, they have here a newer, brighter opportunity to find . . . Christ.

There is so much on a day like this to strike a hidden, all-but-forgotten chord in a man.

In the hush of Christmas, in the flood of memories that come pouring in, a man receives far more than the pair of warm socks, the suit of heavy underwear. or the shirt that you've carefully wrapped. By your thoughtfulness, you strike a spark of hope and faith within him.

Be sure to include these guests of yours on your Christmas list. Shop early for a warm and serviceable gift — socks, gloves, underwear, or a shirt. And won't you take just a moment now to let us know (a card will do) your gift will be on its way soon?

THE BOWERY MISSION & Young Men's Home

Office: 27 East 39th Street New York 16, New York

-a learned and devout man who followed the implications of his convictions where they led. He was the first Pope who had visited the U.S. prior to his reign; he came here as Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli in 1936, traveling from coast to coast. Pius XII was the Pope to whom Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman sent personal representatives. And he was the Pope who canonized the first U.S. citizen (Frances Xavier Cabrini) and who devoted his second encyclical to the problems of the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. Early this year he appointed Cardinal Stritch of Chicago to the Roman Curia, Probably never before was America so aware of a Pope, or a Pope so aware of America.

His successor, Cardinal Angelo Guiseppe Roncalli, takes over at age 76, assuming the name Pope John XXIII.

IN BRIEF: A University of Atheism has been opened in Askhabad, Russia... Dr. James E. McCord was elected president of Princeton Theological Seminary, to succeed Dr. John A. Mackay.... Christians in South Korea now total 1,500,000, of whom 1,323,091 are Protestants... Dr. T. B. McDormand of Toronto has been elected chairman of the Baptist Jubilee Advance sponsored by six North American Baptist conventions.

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Northern Presbyterian foreign mission boards have been replaced by the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. . . . The Women's Missionary Society of the Augustana Lutheran Church voted to change its name to Augustana Lutheran Church Women. . . . A new church built by a Roman Catholic congregation in Kayna, in East Germany, has been closed by the Communists, ordered converted into a "culture center."

Evangelical Lutheran Church has organized a "Church-of-the-Month" club to seek contributions of a dollar or more a month from ELC members to start at least six home mission churches each year.

American Protestant churches will be called on to help resettle more than 5000 Dutch national refugees from the Republic of Indonesia in 1959. . . . North Park College (Mission Covenant Church, Chicago) has inaugurated a four-year liberal arts program. . . . Ground was broken for the new international headquarters of the Wes-

leyan Methodist Church, Marion, Ind.
The Rev. George Bennard, author and composer of "The Old Rugged Cross," died at age 86... Coach Don J. Odle of Taylor University has accepted an invitation from the Chinese Nationalist government to coach their Olympic basketball team in 1960....

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...the fastest, most gentle to the stomach relief you can get!





Men who KNOW medicine say: "Take Aspirin!"

Doctors and public health officials — men who know medicine — have repeatedly recommended aspirin for headache, muscular pain, fever of a cold. And now, eminent doctors — reporting to the entire medical profession on new clinical studies of Bayer Aspirin versus buffered aspirin — reveal that the addition of buffering agents to aspirin serves "no clinically detectable useful purpose." So take Bayer — the best aspirin the world has ever known.

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Unlike pain-relieving tablets which delay relief because they enter your stomach whole, a Bayer tablet disintegrates into soft, tiny flakes on its way to your stomach. Therefore, it's ready to go to work instantly — without delay — to bring the fastest, most gentle to the stomach relief you can get!



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You may select your own child from the pictures above and become a sponsor of one of these dear Korean orphan children in one of our 13 Christian orphanages. Each one is waiting to have an American "Daddy and Mommie." For only \$8 a month—just 26 pennies a day—you or your Sunday School, Bible Class, Junior Church, Ladies Group, etc. will help bring Christ to this child and train him to be a Christian leader in Korea. Write or phone NOW!

The Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association, Inc. is caring for 1700 orphans. Many more are in desperate need, homeless, cold and hungry. Help us expand our 13 orphanages. Each home is a real Christian institution. All Staff and Board members are earnest Christians. May we hear from you?

---- CLID AND MAIL TODAY---

this child	ES I want to "adopt" an orphan for one year. My choice is Number If d has already been adopted, I agree to support another whom you may select. od's help I will send \$8 a month. Please let me have my child's name, picture, and story. I understand I may continue after one year if I wish to.
	nnot "adopt" a child, but want to help by giving \$ use send me further information.
NAME	ise send me former miorinanon.
ADDRESS	
CITY	ZoneState
THE	Gifts of any amount are welcome. Sponsorings are income tax deductible. EVERETT SWANSON EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC. A Non-Profit Corporation
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Scholarships to enable three former Roman Catholic priests from Italy to undergo theological preparation for Lutheran pastoral service were approved by a Lutheran World Federation agency in Copenhagen.

Tel-evangelism, a new Southern Baptist TV evangelistic project, begins

January 4.

temperance

SOCIAL DRINKING: Other things happened, too, at the 59th triennial General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at Miami Beach, but probably none was or will be better publicized by wets and drys alike than the report issued by the Joint Commission on Alcoholism, Gist of the pronouncement: Christians who drink moderately, with due regard for the feelings of their fellow men and with a "conscience care for the claims of God," can drink with "thanksgiving to Him for these blessings." Although the commission felt that grace and thanks at meals should properly include "those beverages which may precede or ac-company the meals," it was wary of grace said over a cocktail party.

Social drinking (opposed to solitary drinking) received, in the main, generous if not hearty applause by the Commission. While not underestimating "the disastrous consequences that arise from the misuse of alcohol," the prevailing tradition of the Episcopal Church was defined to be a point of view which does not insist that the only remedy for this abuse is "total abstinence for all Christian people at all

times."

Said the report, "If a man does not drink, it is important that he not drink for the right reasons. Similarly, it is important that if a man drinks he should drink for the right reasons." The "right" reasons for not drinking:

1. He may believe that his drinking

is an offense to others.

2. He may be an alcoholic or may have some other illness that requires total abstinence.

3. He may believe that alcohol is a

luxury that should be foregone.

4. He may want to exercise a discipline of fasting as an act of devotion.

He may not like alcoholic beverages, or his whole way of life may have never included them.

 He may abstain for good occupational reasons, to insure optimum physical, mental and emotional efficiency.

And one other item which does not seem wholly irrelevant here: in San Francisco the first institution sponsored by the Episcopal Church in the nation for the redemption of alcoholics was dedicated.

Editorially Speaking...

DR. PEALE AND A CRITIC

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NORMAN VINCENT PEALE is fortunate in his critics, particularly in the pseudo-religionists of the journalistic field, who write such paragraphs as this:

"Make no mistake, the prophet of the 1950's has been Norman Vincent Peale, speaking out of Protestantism with the gospel of positive thought, denuded of Protestant substance."

While Dr. Peale does not need the support, it does sell books and otherwise help. He is not responsible for the fact that the paragraph is both offensive and palpably untrue.

MR. LIQUOR-MAN BEWARE

NNOUNCED as the first break with the "liquor industry's voluntary ban on advertising hard liquor on radio and television" was an advertising release by Sackel Company, Inc., a Boston advertising agency, and Boston Station WCRB. This is to be a twenty-six-week newscast program sponsored by a producer of vodka and cordials. Up to now, the liquor industry barred itself from advertising distilled spirits on radio, TV and in Sunday newspapers. This "break" is timed with another announcement to the effect that the pictures of women will no longer be excluded from hard-liquor advertising. At the present writing, there are indications that the liquor industry and its trade associates will vigorously protest the Boston action. Well, they'd better! At the moment, our only comment is: "When an evil becomes intolerable it touches the point of cure."

OUR ORCHID TO DR. P. O. BERSELL

IN an official release, the World Council of Churches reported that a proposal to change the procedure of the annual election of its Executive Committee was "turned down by the Council's Central Committee meeting in Nyborg, Denmark, August 21-29, and the entire Executive Committee was re-elected."

The proposer of change was Dr. P. O. Bersell, an Augustana Lutheran from the United States, who asked that the Central Committee elect the 12 member Executive Committee by secret ballot from a list of 15 nominees. Under present and continuing procedure, the 12 names are presented to be voted on as a whole in open meeting.

Dr. Bersell's proposal was defeated on "the grounds of the difficulty of balancing confessional and geographical representation on the committee." That "difficulty" was, I am sure, as unconvincing to Dr. Bersell as it is to this writer.

The World Council's release states that "all 12 candidates received the required majority of the votes cast, including Professor Josef Hromadka of Czechoslovakia, whose election had been questioned by Dr. Bersell at last summer's Central Committee meeting."

Francis P. Miller, a Presbyterian United States layman, proposed a secret ballot "to save embarrassment on the part of people who could not concientiously vote for the full slate."

How close a majority Dr. Hromadka received is not reported. The Czechoslovakian theologian was one of the most vocal participants in this recent meeting of the World Council's Central Committee. He still wear the Stalin peace prize, twice awarded, a prize with blood on it. He still identifies himself with the "peace program" of the Kremlin, nor has he retracted his public all-out endorsement of Red Russia's crushing of the Hungarian revolution with tanks and machine guns.

"PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE?"

SPEAKING at the eighth assembly of the International Congregational Council at Hartford, Conn., in July of this year, Dr. John C. Bennett, dean of the faculty of Union Theological Seminary, New York City, was quoted in the New York newspapers as saying that Christians "should not take so rigid an attitude that they cannot see that second generation Communists in Russia may become concerned chiefly about building their own country, that they may become less fanatical believers in their ideology and less a threat to the freedom of their neighbors."

Surely everyday developments in the Middle East, behind the Iron Curtain in Europe, and in the Far East emphasize the fact that dealing with less "rigidity" with Communism right now may be even more dangerous to freedom and to faith than carrying a Red membership card.

Dr. Bennett stated that "it was time to take seriously both the natural fears and the legitimate aspirations of great nations even though they are Communist nations. . . ."

But certainly Dr. Bennett knows the ultimate aspirations and purposes, indeed the declared world goal, of Communism.

One would wish that every Christian leader, that every Christian would read and ponder J. Edgar Hoover's objective but factual, convincing, and at times devastating book, *Masters of Decett*.

Lawiel a. Poling



T WAS Christmas Eve in Lafayette, Oregon, 65 years ago, just about the biggest day or evening in a small boy's life. A beautiful fir tree stood in front of the platform of the little white church and there gathered around it a happy community of men, women and children.

Lafayette, though small then and still small, is an ancient town, as the frontier measures time—one of the earliest in Oregon. Once the county seat, its chief distinction at the time of which I write was the "Seminary" that occupied the buildings of what had been the courthouse and the jail. The church which its pastor, my father, built and which now as a memorial bears his name, served the entire community and its environs. It was, I thought, very large and very beautiful. Indeed, it was the largest building in my childhood world, and it still has for me those same emotional dimensions though it could be contained, with room to spare, in the sanctuary where now I frequently preach.

Years later, I learned that on that Christmas Eve the three great faiths were represented. But in our carols and songs and in the giving and receiving of gifts, and in the simple but inclusive ministry of pastor and people, we were united, and I am sure that in spirit at least we sang the song of the Bethlehem angels, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

Fifty years after the Lafayette community Christmas tree, years during which that Oregon boy grew up and traveled over the world and helped celebrate Christmas in many lands, among many peoples, he attended a Christmas celebration in the Pennypacker Grade School in Philadelphia. It was another community Christmas Eve and it was both nostalgic and unique. A devoted and very remarkable woman, Dr. Veronica Michaels, a Roman Catholic in faith and loved by all the faiths in the community her life had enriched, was principal of the school. She retired after serving in the public-school system in Philadelphia for 40 years.

Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, the shrine city of America, has many distinctions, one of which was the community Christmas program of Veronica Michaels. As the Jewish residents increased in number, it was Miss Michaels who added to the long-time Christmas celebration Hanukkah, the festival of the lights. This was a gracious and universally acclaimed marriage of the two historic celebrations which added stature to the leadership of a good and truly great woman and enriched the spirit of brotherhood in all Philadelphia,

Twenty-two years ago, when I came to Philadelphia as pastor of the church founded by the famous educator and clergyman, Russell H. Conwell, and located at the heart of Temple University which he also founded, Christmas was indeed America, with Catholics, Jews and Protestants undisturbed and happy in its observance.

Philadelphia was no exception to the rule, and throughout the United States in great cities, in small towns, and even in the open countryside, Christmas has been and is America. Last year in Elizabeth, New Jersey, financed by a city council appropriation, a \$5,000 Nativity scene was erected in Scott Park opposite City Hall. Floodlights illuminated the elaborate setting and included was a manger crèche in front of a large Christmas tree with a group of carolers and a similar group of choristers and Santa Claus in his sleigh.

In East Orange, New Jersey, a nine-foot Menorah candelabrum was erected in front of the City Hall in celebration of Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish celebration. The Menorah was the gift of Temple Sharey Tefilo and shared the lawn in front of the building with decorated Christmas trees and a Star of Bethlehem—along with the American flag and a statue of Abraham Lincoln. Mayor William McConnell and Rabbi Avraham Soltes of the Temple took part in the public ceremony, and the Rabbi called the erection of the Menorah "a symbol of this city's brotherhood." Christmas symbols had previously appeared alone on the City Hall lawn, and it was the Rabbi who emphasized the fact that it was a community of more than 80,000 in which less than 3 per cent were Jewish that had initiated the observance.

IGNIFICANT of the same spirit was the act of the Jewish war veterans at the St. Albans Naval Hospital in New York City. These veterans purchased round-trip tickets to their homes for 40 veterans of the hospital

is America

By Daniel A. Poling

with pocket money added. The 40 who were given their Christmas holiday came from 15 states. This is the 11th year of the very wonderful Jewish Christmas gift.

So beautiful and entirely worthy, so in keeping with the spirit of Christmas itself and the glory and wonder of our American freedom, was the addition of Hanukkah to the holiday festivities of the nation, and so universal and happy the results, as I observed them from California to Maine, that it was with a rude shock that I found the country suddenly faced with a determined and organized campaign to remove the Christmas celebration with its carols, with its crèches, with its songs and its programs, along with the added Hanukkah observances, from our public schools and from our community life.

HE change in atmosphere came to me first in Philadelphia. Suddenly and unexpectedly to Philadelphians generally, a representative of the Anti-Defamation League spoke out against the singing of carols and the associated activities in the city's public schools. And quickly the community that had been happy with the Christmas carols and celebration and with the added Jewish festival of the lights was torn by acrimonious debate. So intense and partisan was the division that Jewish parents who had no sympathy for the protest and wanted no part in it were silenced by an insistent leadership that made its appeal—sincerely, I am sure, however mistakenly—in the name of the Constitution of the United States, and, believe it or not, in the interests of "American unity"!

I wrote my earnest protest to the leader of this particular crusade. I sought to make clear the fact that to the overwhelming majority of the American people brotherhood could only be hindered and our American unity disadvantaged and hurt by any serious effort to tear Christmas, the great and historic tradition, out of our community life. I told him that the effort would be resisted to the point of bitterness and even a possible social disaster, but that the addition of Hanukkah which had already enriched the Christmas celebrations wherever Jewish communities existed throughout America, would continue to strengthen every worthy interest of

church and school and state. I received no reply to this.

The position that I took then, a decade ago, is the reasoned conclusion with which I write now. Not tearing away, but adding to, is the simple but I believe imperative formula. However, the tide of opposition to Christmas in the public school and in the community itself, outside of religious institutions, has steadily risen.

The Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress has prepared a Memorandum on Display of Crosses, Crucifixes, Crèches and Other Religious Symbols on Public Property. The document is entirely legal and as such has undoubted legal strength. But the over-all effect is negative, not positive, and being the presentment of the minority against the deeply held convictions of the majority it produces inevitably a spirit of resentment that is not good for America.

In this connection the statement of a distinguished Rabbi, Dr. William F. Rosenblum of Temple Israel in New York City is significant. In a sermon quoted by the New York Times, he said: "Christians and Jews who refuse to recognize that a process of syncretism is going on now between the celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah have their heads in the sand . . . humanity will gain a great deal and in many places the Hanukkah hymn will be sung along with the Christmas carol. Fanatics . . . in both camps will fume at all this." A personal letter from Rabbi Rosenblum contains this paragraph: "It is unfortunate that some of my colleagues in the liberal ministry are 'one-track minded' in their liberalism. They are so concerned about having the rights of minorities protected that they overlook the fact that there is such a thing as 'majority rights' as well.'

It is interesting to note that two stamps depicting the Nativity scene were issued in Australia on November 5th this year. They will be available for two months and have been "designed to emphasize the significance of Christmas." There is no record of opposition to this stamp issue.

As I finished my second and third readings of the Memorandum on Display of Crosses, Crucifixes, Crèches and Other Religious Symbols on Public Property, I was reminded of what another Jew who was also a Roman citizen—St. Paul—once (Continued on next page)



Night for Kneeling

By R. W. RABER

ONE of the first gentle stories my mother told me about Christmas was that, at midnight on Christmas Eve, all cattle all over the world turn their heads in the direction of Bethlehem in Judea and kneel, I found out later that this was only an ancient legend, which says that the old ox in whose manger the Christ Child was laid had knelt with the shepherds in adoration, and that this act of a dumb beast was preserved and transmitted to his kind ever after, to be repeated each Christmas Eve.

My mother's version had an additional wrinkle, however. The cattle, she said, not only knelt, but, as they turned their heads toward the place where the first manger stood, they all joined in a soft, unison "moo." My imagination was stimulated beyond words, and I determined on the spot that, come next Christmas Eve, I would see for myself.

But it couldn't be the next Christmas Eve or the one after that, Parents have peculiar ideas about children creeping around the barnyard at 20 below zero in the middle of the nighteven if it is the night cattle kneel!

But there did come a Christmas Eve when the circumstances were perfect. Our family had by then abandoned the traditional Christmas-morning opening of gifts, the better to get to church on time, and had transferred those moments to Christmas Eve. On this particular Christmas Eve, I received a flashlight—a flashlight all my own.

I began immediately to keep a close watch on the old clock with the Roman numerals on its face. No one said a word about bedtime. At precisely 11:30 I put on my sheepskin coat and to "try out the new flashlight," went out into the night.

Whether it was clear or cloudy I can't remember, but I know it was so

cold the snow squeaked underfoot at every step, like a pair of new shoes. I ran the hundred yards to the barn, lest after all this I be too late. I slid open the door quickly and stepped in side, closing it behind me, Eagerly I played the beam of the new flashlight up and down the row of cattle.

They were all in their accustomed places. The big brockle-face was at one end, befitting her deanship of the herd. Next was old Rosie, who never mooed less than six times in a row. Little Red was there, and the hefty roan with the stub tail, and a dozen or so more of various names or designations. At the other end of the line was my father's pride and joy, old Jimmy, the bull.

I looked hard at their faces for some expectant attitude, considering the magnitude of the moment so soon to come upon them. But there was none. They looked as they always did in December or January or July or September. A few of them rose to their feet and stretched, apparently thinking it was time for another milking. Jimmy the bull turned his head and hummed at me in his rich baritone that I knew meant, "What in the world are you doing here at this time of night?"

A SAT down on a milk stool, my back against the calf pen, to wait, keeping the light trained on the line of cows. I felt cold and shivery, not because it was cold in the barn, for the bodies of the animals kept the air comfortable, but because the whole thing seemed kind of creepy. I stayed in spite of it. Time passed — whether minutes or hours I couldn't tell. Nothing happened. The cows, accepting my presence with no complaint, lay and chewed their cud or stood and foraged for some tasty bite they had overlooked. (Continued on page 30)

said: "He hath made us able ministers of the New Testament, not of the *letter* but of the *spirit*, for the letter *killeth* but the *spirit* giveth *life*."

Surely if the interpretation of the 14th and 15th Amendments as offered by the American Jewish Congress is within the letter of the great law, then the application of that letter to our American community life will help destroy something infinitely more vital to brotherhood and American unity than the law itself when standing alone.

It is, of course, important to observe that while Jewish organizations have in many communities spearheaded the opposition to Christmas carols in the public schools and to crèches on public lawns, they have been supported by certain liberal Protestant organizations as well as by groups of free thinkers and by the American Civil Liberties Union.

In a suburb of Detroit, a Jewish Rabbi, who during the building of a synagogue conducted services of his congregation in a public school building, vigorously opposed the traditional Christmas program in the public school. This particular Rabbi was a refugee from Hitler's persecution in Germany.

In many instances a single individual, perhaps under pressure of national leadership, has raised the issue and divided his or her community. A Greater Philadelphia branch of the American Civil Liberties Union just before Christmas in 1957 protested a Board of Education decision to permit in the public schools Christmas pageants which depict the Nativity story. Under pressure of the Civil Liberties Union the Board banned Nativity plays but later unanimously reversed itself. The Jewish Federation of Camden County, New Jersey, joined in this particular protest against the Christmas observance.

Twenty-eight residents of Ossining, New York, in September of this year sought an injunction in the State Supreme Court against the erection of a Nativity crèche on the lawn of their city's Junior-Senior High School. They claimed that the crèche would be unconstitutional and asked Justice Elbert T. Gallagher to forbid future display of the crèche. In this action 12 clerical and lay witnesses representing the plaintiff testified that the statuary figures of the crèches were symbols only of Christian faith. Under cross examination by attorneys for the defendant who were members of the board of education of Union Free School District No. 1 and a 15-member crèche committee, some of the plaintiffs agreed that the crèche did carry historical significance. The mayor of

(Continued on page 66)



MY CHRISTMAS IN THE HOSPITAL

By JEAN F. GIBSON

Y attention was focused on the big door with the sign *University Hospital*. Everyone stepped aside to let my stretcher roll through. As the attendants skillfully guided it across the lobby and into the long corridor, I saw a clock on the wall. It indicated 3:05. Time had suddenly become very important to me.

While the ambulance driver reported to the desk, his assistant, tall and strong, stood at my feet. I tried to grin and said, "I suppose you carry people in here in all kinds of conditions, even unconscious."

He answered, "Sometimes we do."

In an attempt to see a bright side, I ventured, "Well, if you have to come to a hospital, I guess it's better to be conscious."

His answer was quick and sure. "Madam, it isn't how you come in, it's how you go out that's important."

As I lay flat on my hospital bed that evening, I remembered a few details of my first ride in an ambulance. Everybody had turned to look as the ambulance passed. At a traffic light we had pulled alongside a streetcar, and it seemed to me that windows full of faces were all staring at me, I wondered if they were grateful that they weren't riding in an ambulance five days before Christmas.

Of the countless doctors and nurses who stopped in to examine and to help me, the only one I had seen before was the doctor who had arranged for me to enter the hospital. I was given the usual treatment for a "back" case—a series of spinal X-rays, board under my mattress, lumbar pad. (Continued on page 66)





By MAUD F. JACKSON

OTHER always had a long Christmas list, and every year it seemed to grow longer. She began her list each year by the first of April on a lengthy, narrow strip of paper that she tore from the adding-machine roll which she kept fastened to a hook in the kitchen wall for grocery orders and household notes.

"How many times do you have to fold your list this year?" the Grandmothers would demand along about the middle of each October.

Mother would answer their teasing with a silent smile.

"The only way to get off Dorothy's Christmas list, once you're on it," Dad would declare, "is to die. Even moving 3,000 miles away won't get you dropped. It's amazing how Dorothy keeps remembering those who disappoint her or even those who do things she thoroughly dislikes."

That was Mother, though. What an all-encompassing love of people she had!

Naturally, as a child, I had great curiosity about that list of Mother's. Each year I would give almost anything to be able to see more of it than its folded outside. Not that I wanted to discover early what my own gift was to be. That I was willing to wait to learn on The Day; the mounting speculation and anticipation were too precious a part of the Christmas delight to be

No. The provocative questions about Mother's mysterious list were what I wanted answered. (Continued on next page)

ILLUSTRATED BY MILLER POPE

REJOICE

By DAVID H. C. READ

TEXT: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

PAUL was only half-way through this letter when he wrote, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." Now he says it again—twice. This is an Advent Commandment. The apostle is thinking of the coming of Christ. "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Here is how J. B. Phillips translates it: "Delight yourselves in God, ves, find your joy in Him at all times. Have a reputation for gentleness and never forget the nearness of your Lord." The joy we are thinking of is linked to the nearness of God-to His closeness to the world He has made, to the coming of Christ to redeem it and to His coming at the end of time.

To say that, often arouses a kind of suspicion in many minds. We are accused of not really meaning what we

say, or else using the word "joy" in a different sense from the usual, If Christianity is a religion of joy, in the normal sense of the word, then why does it seem so solemn? Where is the joy in dim churches, black-covered Bibles, confessions of sin, warnings of judgment, denunciations and pronouncements against this, that or the other? Or if, on the other hand, church people go out of their way to appear joyful, hearty and full of joie-de-vivre, they are suspected of putting on an act, of over-compensating, trying to prove what good fellows they are-in spite of their religion.

Then again, there is the suspicion that this Christian joy, if it really exists, must include an element of delight in feeling safe and secure when everyone else is heading for damnation. "I don't

(Continued on page 48)

Chaplain to soldiers, war prisoners, university students and a queen, David Haxton Carswell Read is now minister of New York's Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. Dr. Read was born and educated in Scotland. Three years after his ordination he entered the chaplaincy of the British Army, was captured and spent five years as a prisoner of war.

He left the ministry of Greenbank Church, Edinburgh, in 1949 to become the first chaplain to the University of Edin-

He left the ministry of Greenbank Church, Edinburgh, in 1949 to become the first chaplain to the University of Edinburgh. In 1952 he was appointed Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland. In America only two years, Dr. Read is already well known as a theological lecturer, radio preacher, author of books, articles.



Did that long list which had to be folded three or, perhaps, four times to fit smoothly into her oversized handbag when she went shopping really have names written on it all the way down to the bottom? Did Mother write larger than she usually did to make her list that long? Was that folded paper just Mother's Christmas list, or did she write other shopping notes, too?

For years I lived with those unanswered questions. But one day—and it must have been during the December that I was 12 years old—I had a chance to learn all the answers. I came upon Mother's Christmas list when no one else was present in the room.

Mother and I were going downtown to do my own Christmas shopping that first Saturday morning in December. I was dressed and had just given my short red curls a last flick of the brush when she called me. But the telephone rang, and Mother had gone to answer her call before I reached the room. That was the moment when I spied the exposed list.

My eyes must have widened with excitement as I stood in the doorway debating whether I would look at Mother's Christmas list. I knew that I should not look—that looking at it would be fully as bad as reading somebody's private letter without permission. But there the list lay—open and in plain view. For years I had been consumed by curiosity. Temptation conquered!

Names were written to the very bottom of the list with no skipping. (I looked at the bottom first just to see.) Probably it was much longer than some, but surely the same kind of list that any woman might make. It was neatly arranged in four columns. First were names. In line with each name, in the second column, was the planned gift. Then next a figure (\$2.00, \$5.00, or \$1.00 perhaps), evidently Mother's estimated cost of that particular gift. The last column, so far only partially filled, recorded what must have been the exact cost of each purchase made.

I was satisfied and curiously let down at the same time. Now the questions were answered, and I had not seen a thing exciting or unusual. In fact, at the moment I could remember only one full entry:

"Grandmother, New Testament (largest print), \$5.00, \$4.59."

Then just as I was turning away, because I truly did not want to see where my name was written and what was chosen for me, I made an amazing discovery. Right at the top under Christmas List was written:

"God's Present, red bicycle, \$15.00, \$17.49."

A bicycle for God! To a 12-year-old (Continued on page 64)

Thank You Lord, For Today



WIND had come up and Ray Allen was closing the door of the Bowery Mission, on New York's skid row, when a tall, heavy-set man, with erect bearing and a firm step, approached him. The man was well dressed, well groomed, but Allen immediately noted that the sleeve ends of the coat were frayed, the elbows and other places worn thin. Holding the door knob, Allen watched as the man reached into a pocket, withdrew a small, gold-tooled leather case. He opened it carefully and fingered a snowy-white calling card which he handed to the Mission's assistant pastor. Engraved and artistically designed, it read JAMES HOWARD ADAMSON, WATCHMAKER.

While a beguiled Ray Allen scanned the card, James Howard reached into another pocket and came up with a handsome, possibly solid gold, money clip. A glance was sufficient to tell Allen it held exactly two, one-dollar bills.

Then in polished speech but in a tone that held controlled despair—but despair nevertheless—Adamson said, "Could you possibly help me add a few more dollars to this clip?" Pause, and then, timorously, "And, could you possibly help me?"

Now, HUNDREDS OF MEN through the

years have come to Bowery Mission and asked Ray Allen, Pastor George Bolton or the other stalwarts there, to help them. But, invariably, the vagrants were drunk, or dirty, or dishevelled, or almost inarticulate—or all of these.

Adamson's approach was, to say the least, unique. And Ray Allen stood there on the Mission threshold, dumbfounded and with questions all over his face.

However, the man had said "Help me," and that is "Open Sesame" to the Mission, And Allen invited the big fellow into his office.

And there he heard the incredible story of a man who had come to the Mission not because of drink or women or gambling or bereavement, or any of the other usual reasons that bring defeated men to the Bowery.

James Howard Adamson came to the Mission because of this same James Howard Adamson. That is, it was not Demon Rum or any of the other usual troubles that defeated this watchmaker —it was the man himself.

However, clean and sober though he was, Adamson's reason for knocking on the Mission's door was exactly the same as that of the besotted and begrimed supplicants. The Mission represented his last hope—and perhaps the only sure one. He had tried to help

himself, but had failed. He was hopeful that he would find Someone to help him at the Mission; he knew that the staff would give him whatever material aid he immediately needed.

The Bowery Mission's stewardship is not entirely for barflies; others too, like Adamson, are helped there!

But—and this is a fantastic aspect of this most unusual vagrant and it left Ray Allen popeyed and slack-jawed when he heard it, James Howard Adamson has a trust fund in the amount of \$15,000!

A DAMSON is now employed as a manager in a chain of New York hotels. His mind is at peace; every night he breathes his favorite prayer: "Thank You, Lord, for today."

A while ago, Ray Allen brought him to my office and I heard his story and how the Mission got him, as he expressed it, "squared away."

But let him tell it. . . .

I (this is Adamson speaking) graduated from Iowa U. during the depression. I couldn't get a job in my chosen field of chemical research. So I took what I could get and for as long as I could get it—in quick succession there was technical work in a steel mill; clerical work in a grain brokerage house; foreman with a farm implement

manufacturer; foreman at a cannery.

Then, as the nation was creeping up out of the depression, through a number of happenstances not important to this story, I got a job selling and setting up office systems.

Why I should know about office systems with my miscellaneous background I don't know, but somehow I did. And I promptly forgot about chem-

ical research, when I discovered, in a very short time, that I had hit the jackpot!

In no time at all, I was making up to \$1,000 a month. But I was earning almost every penny of it! It was exhausting, nerve-wracking work.

In my few periods of relaxation, I took time out to pat myself on the back, I had made it! I was a success! Nothing

could stop me now!

And so, in those few hours of leisure time, I lived handsomely! Not drink or women, mind you—since I'm not a drunk and I prefer being a bachelor—but on other things, like clothes, food, gifts to friends and relatives.

So, I frittered my money away. But, I did set up that trust fund!

Somewhere along the line I must have realized I was being perhaps too prodigal with my hard-earned income, and I decided to salt some of it away. Thus, at some point, I don't remember when, I rounded up \$15,000 and placed this into a fund, payable to myself at age 68. I made a provision—wise or unwise, I don't know—that no one could touch this, including very definitely, myself—until I reached age 68.

I was about 35 when I irrevocably tied up that \$15,000. And that step, in some strange manner, marked the beginning of my decline—although I did not know this at the time.

For a couple of years I worked as hard and lived as well as ever, but gradually I found myself being unable to stand the pressure of the job.

But the lure of money was so great I gritted my teeth and carried on. Until—I was fired!

And this was a terrible blowespecially to my ego! If the company felt they could get along without my services, I wasn't the indispensable, the great, man I thought I was.

I sought solace in drink-and the church, A strange combination, I'll grant you. And if I didn't have a bank account, it would have been only the church. As I said. I'm not an alcoholic by any means, but having plenty of money and nothing to do (job hunting didn't appeal to me), I gravitated to the local bars for companionship and sympathy. Then, not drunk, just mellow, I would find myself going to a nearby church to sit in the silent and beautiful sanctuary and commune with the Lord and ask for His guidance. I had had a Sunday-school education and was acquainted with the Lord, although I had not accepted Him as my Saviour.

One day while I was seated in a back pew, with the usual amount of ineffective liquor in me, and I was trying to get through to the Lord, there was a gentle tap on my shoulder.

I looked up to see a clergyman bend-

ing over me solicitously.

"Son," he said, "I've seen you coming in here day after day. I think you come to pray, but I don't know. However, I'm the pastor of this church, and if you need help, I'll be very happy to do what I can."

N inutes later we were in his study and I was blurting out my story. His wise and friendly counseling decided me on my next step.

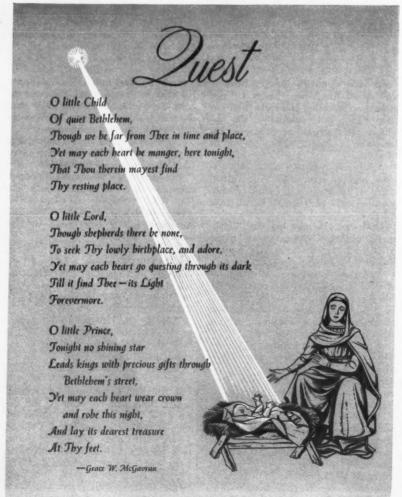
EVERY man has a hobby; mine is repairing watches. This fascinates me and through the years I have devoted as much leisure time to it as possible. Matter of fact, I became rather expert at it.

This was all in the Midwest, by the way. But I had repaired watches for some friends of mine, who subsequently moved to Washington, D. C. They heard of my being fired from my position and wrote me saying that a little watch-repairing shop was for sale in their neighborhood . . . and would I be interested in buying it?

I was and I did. For a couple of years I was completely happy with this little business, although it made hardly any profit. Yet I continued spending money and didn't worry too much about my bills at the small shop. But my bank account was dwindling rapidly.

There was a big pile of unpaid bills when I decided to close the shop for a while and take a vacation in New York. I had a grand time in the big city—alternating again between bars and churches, getting neither drunk in one nor "saved" in the other. I even went

(Continued on page 63)



A Family Christmas Eve Litany

By CATHERINE MARSHALL

(Child lights the candles on the altar.)

FATHER: Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes:

Who is it in you manger lies? Who is this child so young and fair?

The blessed Christ Child lieth there.

MOTHER: Ah, Lord, who hast created all.

How hast Thou made Thee weak and small.

That Thou must choose Thy infant bed

Where ass and ox but lately fed?

GUEST IN THE HOME:

My heart for very joy doth leap,

My lips no more their silence keep;

I too must sing with joyful tongue

That sweetest ancient cradle-song.

ADULTS IN UNISON:

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled Within our hearts, that it may be A quiet chamber kept for Thee.* MOTHER: Lo, the baby wakes and cries and will not come into our hearts. CHILDREN: Why does He cry? Why

will He not come into our hearts?

FATHER: Because there is no room for Him in our hearts,

GUEST: How can this be?

CHILDREN: What is in our hearts that keeps out the Christ-child?

FATHER: No baby likes darkness and unforgiveness.

CHILDREN: We do not understand. We love the Baby Jesus,

MOTHER: God has told us that we cannot love Him alone. When He comes, He brings all children—red and yellow, black and white.

CHILDREN: Even sick and dirty children?

FATHER: Even those He brings.

CHILDREN: All children—even those who say they are our enemies?

MOTHER: Even those He would bring. Guest: This is serious, We had not counted on entertaining any but the Christ Child fair;

FATHER: Then there would be no Christmas, no birthday for the King.

(Child goes to altar and blows out the candles.)

MOTHER: Lo, the light of the world must go out, No Christmas song can be heard. No presents can be given to one another. There is no place in our hearts for Him—only room for self and pride in our hearts.

CHILDREN: We do not like this. We cannot do without Christmas. We'd rather get rid of self and pride and unforgiveness of others and have the Christ Child in our hearts for His birthday.

MOTHER: To dwell there always?

CHILDREN: Yes, always—and without any dark deeds or bitter thoughts.

FATHER: There is only one way to get rid of darkness and bitterness.

Guest: We want to know. We want to begin right now.

FATHER: We shall have to hand over our hearts to God to be washed clean. No one else can make them clean.

CHILDREN: Please, let us do it now.
(All the family and guests kneel or bow their heads.)

FATHER: Dear God, we find that Jesus cannot come into our hearts for

(Continued on next page)
^oFrom Martin Luther, translated by Catherine
Winkworth.

Preparing for the Service

COPIES of the Litany should be made ahead of time by older children in the family or by someone who can use a typewriter. These copies are placed in Christmas folders, which the children can make of red and green construction paper decorated with original Christmas drawings or gummed stars or pictures cut from last year's Christmas cards.

The living-room chairs are arranged in a semi-circle facing a table-altar decked in green and holding two unlighted candles. If you have a crèche, put it also on the altar. Or you may wish to use a real-life scene with the baby or grandchild of the family occupying an improvised cradle near the altar, or a doll may be dressed in swaddling clothes. If there is a small daughter in the family, the crèche or cradle and doll may be her special responsibility. Another child should be appointed to act as a candlelighter.

If there is a phonograph or hi-fi in the home or if someone plays the piano, appropriate Christmas music—such as "Away in a Manger" or "It Came Upon the

Midnight Clear"—can be used to set a worship mood.

Adapt the service to your own family age group. If you have a first- or second-grade child in the process

you have a first- or second-grade child in the process of learning to read, the children's parts may be lettered on large cards and practiced ahead of time. They could then be arranged in order, with a nod from Mother supplying the timing. Or perhaps Mother or an older child could whisper to the younger ones what to say as their parts in the service come.

IN working out details, remember that the active participation of each member of the family—no matter how young—is of far more importance than finesse. Only this participation can result in that feeling of family closeness that helps to bring the Kingdom of God—the "Kingdom of right relationships"—to earth.

I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to my friend, Elizabeth Anne Campagna, who collaborated with me in working out the Litany.



Lines of a Layman BY J. C. PENNEY

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER

MY SUBJECT HERE is "The Making of a Man" and such a subject should deal fundamentally with the formation of character. No man is born with character—which may be defined as the quality of leadership, or the ability to do great things. It is rather a product of one's development throughout the years. The next time you see a person you greatly admire, I invite you to look back over his history. You will find that he is just like you in that he made mistakes, he had fears, he worried at times and he often became discouraged. But while some people rise above their problems and overcome them, others become submerged by them.

Let me relate to you an experience of mine which was of great import in my own life. I was 19 when my father died, just six weeks after I had started work in the store of Mr. Hale, the leading merchant.

My first crucial experience came soon after my father's death. In Mr. Hale's store were two salesmen, the equal of any salesmen I have ever seen throughout my life. They had their own customers to whom they made special prices (for that was before it was the custom to make fixed prices to one and all). This made it difficult for me to sell even to my friends, for they could go to these other salesmen and get a better price than I could make. These men delighted in teasing me about the clothes I wore, the wages I was getting and anything else that occurred to them as a subject for ridicule. When I had a customer, one or the other would come and take him away from me on a pretense: "I am afraid you will miss the sale." I became much discouraged, I shrank into myself, and kept away from them, for I was very sensitive to their gibes. However, I did not loaf on the job; I busied myself with arranging stock and took great pride in keeping it in good shape. But I was not happy; I was getting nowhere.

One day something happened within me. To this day I cannot account for it. If I were in that store now I could go directly to the spot where this change took place. Unbidden, the spirit of self-assertion flamed.

That was the turning point of my early life, for I stood my ground firmly, would not allow the salesmen to take away my customers and exerted every effort. By the end of the year I was third in sales.

NIGHT FOR KNEELING

(Continued from page 22)

After what seemed like a long time, I stood up and went out. My chills had left me. I walked back to the house, disappointed. Nothing had happened. It was a fairy tale.

I came into the house and glanced at the clock: it was three minutes to twelve. I hadn't stayed long enough! I dashed out the door and ran a little way—then stopped. Somehow, I didn't want to return to the barn. I was afraid of what I might not see. Then again, I was afraid of what I might see. As I walked back into the house I saw, in my mind's eye, the big brockle-face, old Rosie, Little Red, the hefty roan, and the whole row, along with Jimmy, the bull, and the little calves in their

pen-all were kneeling on their fore-

I have learned a few things in the years that have come and gone since that night. I have learned about reality and the world, and about things that happen and things that do not happen. I have seen many Christmas Eves and have had opportunity to ponder the meaning and result of the episode seen by that old ox at the manger in Bethlehem. The more I think about it, the more astounding and wonderful it seems. And sometimes when my soul stands on tiptoe, which is not too often, I think I am more amazed at what God has done and continues to do with men, than I would have been had I seen the

cattle kneel on Christmas Eve long ago.

The habits of men, in many ways, are not much different from the habits of cattle—cattle who fight and stamp and shove one another away from the trough, unthinking, unloving, greedy, self - contained, self - concerned. But whether cattle kneel or not, men sometimes do. And when men kneel, a miracle is wrought. For God reaches with loving hands into the depths of the humble heart and transforms it.

I can't tell you whether cattle really do kneel at midnight on Christmas Eve. I can't tell you because I never went back on another Christmas Eve to see. But I do know that, as men kneel at the manger every Christmas, they grow a little in grace and tolerance and understanding.

The End

CHRISTMAS EVE LITANY

(Continued from previous page)

Christmas until Thou dost wash us clean of sin and selfishness and deeds that do not please Thee. Forgive us each one. Forgive every single deed during this year that has not pleased Thee, and all that we should have done that we have not done.

MOTHER: Lord, make a clean place in our hearts—without unforgiveness or bitterness or selfishness toward a single one of Thy children. Lord, make of our hearts a clean place.

GUEST: Father in heaven, wash away our foolishness and false pride.

CHILDREN: Dear Baby Jesus, come spend Your birthday in our hearts. Bring with You every child and their mothers and fathers. Christmas would be ruined without You. We need You in our hearts and in our home and and in our country, Lord Jesus.

(Silence-all sit quietly, waiting for a moment.)

FATHER: He has cleansed us. He has come!

(Child relights the candles.)

MOTHER: Now it is Christmas! Christmas has come back to us!
CHILDREN: It is time to sing . . .

(All sing "Joy to the World." If any members of the family play musical instruments, they may join in.)

FATHER OR OLDER CHILD: (Reads the Christmas story—Luke 2:1-14.)

MOTHER: And now with joy in our hearts because Christmas has come back to us, we'll hang up the stockings and get ready for Christmas morning.

CHILDREN: We thank Thee, Lord Jesus. Merry Christmas, everybody!

THE END



APHALL THE HERALD ANGEL

In the rehearsal studio at the very end of the long corridor, three angel voices faded in the middle of a note. The cherubs had just heard the Great Voice summoning their singing teacher.

But the choirmaster continued to rap his baton in time to the interrupted melody. "Why have you stopped?" he asked. "Please, please sing until I give you the signal."

"But . . ." piped the first cherub.

"... the Great Voice ..." trilled the second.
".... just called you!" warbled the third.

"Nonsense," Raphael said. "Why would the Great Voice call me? The Great Voice has never called my name, and I have been here for eons. You cherubs are always thinking of some clever way to get out of choir practice!" And again the choirmaster rapped his baton.

"Raphael!"

Now four voices halted abruptly. This, then, was no cherubic prank-



By David Appel and Merle Hudson Mustrated by Reisie Lonette

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they had heard the Great Voice, filling the rehearsal studio. "That's my name!" gasped Raphael. "I must leave," he said as he stepped over the stacks of music piled on the floor of the room. "You stay right here," he instructed as he squeezed between the musical instruments cluttering the entrance. "And please," he entreated as he rushed out the door, "please try to be little angels!"

Flying down the long corridor toward the Majestic Portals, Raphael asked himself question after question: "Why am I wanted? Why would a choirmaster be summoned to the Mighty Place? What can have happened?"

At the entrance he hesitated, arranging his robes to hide a few unfortunate inkstains. In his haste he had carried several sheets of music with him. Now holding them behind his back, Raphael shyly crossed into the brilliant light of the Mighty Place.

The room was full. They were all here—the messengers, darting through the air on silver wings; the elders, sitting close in quiet deliberation; the scribes, busy with their writing instruments. Even the archangels Michael and Gabriel were in the room.

Then, just as the choirmaster nervously shifted the few pages of music from one hand to another, all activity stopped.

AND the Great Voice spoke: "Let us open the Book."
One of the scribes rose, holding high the golden volume in which he had been writing.

"Read my Promise," commanded the Voice.

The angel turned the pages, and ran his finger down one of the sheets until he came to the proper passage. Then, slowly and tenderly, he read. "The Promise is this: 'The people of earth, the people that walk in darkness, shall see a great light. Unto them a son shall be given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.'"

"My children," said the Great Voice, "the time to fulfill

this Promise is at hand."

"Amen," whispered Raphael, along with the rest of the Heavenly Assembly.

Again the Great Voice spoke: "Our beloved Gabriel has just returned from earth. Now it is fitting that my Holy Gift be announced to all the people of the world. My children, one of you shall go forth to make our great news

known."
What an honor! Who would be chosen?

"Who but a messenger?" thought Raphael. "Many of them have been to earth. They know the way." Turning to a neighbor, the choirmaster whispered his prediction.

"I don't agree," the angel said. "A scribe will be chosen. We scribes have kept the Record, and know all that has ever happened."

Raphael shook his head. "We are both wrong. How silly of us! Gabriel will be sent to earth again. He will sound his golden trumpet to announce the Holy Gift. And if it isn't Gabriel, it will be Michael. Yes, I am sure of that—an archangel will be God's envoy!"

Raphael glanced about in satisfaction, his mind at rest. But even as he did so, his expression changed.

"Yet if an archangel is to be selected, why have I been summoned to the Mighty Place?" For an instant he considered the question, and then a happy smile lighted his face. "Now I know—the message will be delivered in song! And Lemuel, the leading tenor in my own Hallelujah Choir, will sing it! That is why our Father has summoned me—so



The room was full. They were all here; even the archangels Michael and Gabriel.

that I may be present when this wonderful honor is accorded my dearest friend!"

Indeed, Lemuel was known to possess the most expressive, the most lyrical singing voice in Heaven. But not only for this did Raphael admire him; apart from their close association in the choir, they were inseparable friends.

It was, in fact, amusing to watch the two angels walking side by side in the streets of the Beautiful City, deep in conversation. Raphael was better able to express himself in music than in words; as he walked his hands seemed to search the air, as if there he might find the right phrase or sentence. His robes flowed and billowed with each long stride. His tall figure seemed ever to be rushing forward. Lemuel, however, was short and round, like so many tenors. Hurrying along, skipping on every third or fourth step so that he might keep pace with the choirmaster, he nevertheless noticed all that went on around him.

"So it will be Lemuel," thought Raphael. "My, my, how we will have to rehearse! We shall have to change our whole

schedule of classes immediately!"

And in his mind, the choirmaster began to make plans. He'd hold choir practice earlier, and shift the cherubim

classes to later afternoon. .

But even as Raphael was thinking, a sudden change came over him. It was as if one, then ten, then a hundred and then a thousand sunbeams were shining on him. It was as if a multitude of organs were thundering magnificent chords of music. And he seemed alone, completely alone. In wonder he waited.

"Raphael!" the Great Voice commanded, "Raphael, step

forward.'

HE sheets of clusic slipped from the choirmaster's fingers, and fluttered to the floor. He moved as in a dream. All eyes, he sensed, were on him.

Perfect silence again came over the room, and then the

Great Voice spoke:

"Raphael, let there be proper music on this occasion. Let there be songs of exultation and joy. Let the angelic voices ring out. Choose well, choirmaster, from among your singers. Train them in songs of gladness and of great tidings. Let their anthems proclaim my Gift, and the fulfillment of my promise to mankind."

Raphael trembled. This was too much to comprehend. He wanted to cry out, "Not me—I am only a choirmaster. I am just a musician. I have never been to earth. I have

never even been out of the Beautiful City.

But there was no need to speak, His thoughts had already been fathomed.

"True, Raphael," the Great Voice said. "You have never sung on earth, nor escorted a choir to that place. But never before has there been such an occasion, Now mankind is to receive the most precious Gift I can bestow. Nothing less than a choir of angels can serve to announce the news. Raphael, you will herald the event. You will be my Herald Angel!"

"I cannot believe it," the choirmaster thought, "I just cannot believe it." He struggled to find words that would eloquently describe his emotions. "Never before . . ." Raphael started to say, but his vision fogged and his

thoughts were blurred.

"Never before have angels..." he began again, slowly turning to leave. But his voice choked with wonderment; he looked wordlessly at each of the angels in the chamber; and then, joy and astonishment in every word, he whispered:

"Never before have angels sung for mortals!"

As the Herald Angel approached the Portals, Michael stepped aside. Outside the Mighty Place, Gabriel waited, his trumpet tucked under his arm; and he too acknowledged with a graceful bow the honor given to Raphael.

But the choirmaster noticed nothing. With head bent slightly forward, he mumbled the same phrase over and over as he walked and then rushed and then flew down the long corridors toward his studio. "Never before . . . never before . . . never before have angels sung for mortals!"

ALONE in the studio where rehearsals were held every afternoon, Raphael paced restlessly from one end of the room to the other. At the organ he paused, pressed down one key, still another, a third, and then shook his head. He wan-

His voice choked. "Never before have angels sung for mortals." 34

dered to a corner where the great harp was standing; hestroked the strings, bringing forth a fragment of a song. But again he was displeased.

No, he decided, the choirs could not use any of the old hymns they knew so well to announce the Gift. There must be new music, great music, for the Great Event. And to write it would require the assistance of his entire staff.

Later that day, messengers winged their way through the Beautiful City, asking each of the leading musicians, composers, arrangers and lyricists to attend a special meeting. In the studio, meanwhile, apprentices prepared for the conference. From the shelves they carried huge volumes containing the words and notes of all the songs that had ever been heard in Heaven. At a table they put sheaves of paper, ruled for musical notation, with ink and quills arranged neatly alongside.

At the appointed hour, Raphael's staff gathered around the table. Each, of course, had a different answer to the question of why the special meeting had been arranged.

At last Raphael bustled to his place at the table, glanced briskly about the room, and said, "Good, good! You are all here. That's fine. Splendid. There's no time to lose. We must start today, this very minute. Yes, this very minute."

"Start what, Raphael?" asked an arranger.

The Herald Angel's voice was low, barely a whisper. "We must create the most beautiful music ever heard. And then..."

"And then?" echoed the angels.

"A Heavenly Choir will sing our music for man!"
"For man!" they chorused. "Why?" "How?" "When?"

"My dear colleagues, if you will just stop asking me so many things at once, I shall explain. We have the very best of reasons. Our Father is about to give a Gift, a very precious Gift, to mankind. And we—we are to herald the event in song!

"That is why I have called you here today," he continued. "We must work together, work as we have never worked before, to create music so beautiful, so perfect that man will understand the joy and wonder of God's Gift. My friends,

all of you must give your utmost!'

The Herald Angel looked hopefully about the table, waiting for suggestions. Finally a lyricist broke the long silence. "I'm sure we'd all know what to do if we were singing here in the Beautiful City for angels, Raphael. But none of us has ever been to earth. Not one of us has ever sung for men. We don't know where to begin."

At the end of the table, Lemuel coughed politely.

"Fortunately," he said, "Raphael anticipated that problem. As a matter of fact, I've been conferring with many of the angels who have visited earth in the past. Shall I read my notes, Raphael?"

AND then, almost before the Herald Angel could nod in agreement, the tenor unfurled a scroll, cleared his throat,

and began

"The problem is that the men and women of the world rarely recognize us as angels when they see us. Somehow we must convince them that we are indeed Heavensent, and have news of supreme importance to bring them. I've been told that on earth, when leaders wish to announce a significant event, they send trumpeters through the streets, and messengers proclaim the occurrence from turrets and from house-tops. We must do something similar, I feel, to win mankind's confidence and attention."

Now a clamor arose from Raphael's staff:

"Perhaps three great claps of thunder to begin . . ."

"A brilliant flash of heavenly fire . . ."

"Trumpet blasts . . .

"Wait, wait!" Raphael cried. "You go too fast. Let me tell

CHRISTIAN HERALD

you what is to happen that night. Let us try to visualize the scene together. Immediately the Gift is made, we must announce it.

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Raphael's eyes shone as he spoke. "Just imagine-at first only a few people in the streets will hear our song. But they will stop to listen. Some will shout for joy. Perhaps others will pound on the doors of the nearby houses

The angels at the table, caught up by Raphael's vision, forgot their manners. One after another, they interrupted.

"Some will be in the midst of their labors," said a lyricist. They will put down their tools, and listen.

'Others will be sleeping," added the First Harpist, "but they will be aroused by the great choir in the Heavens.

"Servants will call upon masters, and masters will call upon servants to come to hear," declared the Assistant Ar-

"Kings, rich men, poor men, everyone everywhere will be swept up by this music-Heavenly music, heard on earth for the first time," shouted Lemuel.

"But," a composer suddenly cautioned them, "some may panic. There will be screams of fear.'

"Yes," his neighbor said, "you are right. They will run and hide.

The angels at the table stopped in discouragement and confusion, and looked to Raphael.

"Fear," the Herald Angel said, "can make men deaf. Fear can close their eyes. And so we must explain why mortals need not be frightened. Let us immediately proclaim the words, 'Fear not.' Perhaps we'll even repeat them. Let us make it so clear that even those who are in terror will understand that ours is a message of good tidings and joy.'

HE writers set to work, conferring, comparing, selecting. The composers fitted words to notes. And Raphael was everywhere, rushing from keyboard to writing desk, humming, revising, suggesting, helping, correcting. His fingers were stained with ink, but pride gleamed from his face, for he knew their songs would be masterpieces. The hymns soared as they told of God's glory; their sweet low tunes pictured His strength and His love; notes of clarion beauty described His compassion.

Now came the problem of picking just the right voices to sing this magnificent music.

"Lemuel," the Herald Angel said, "we will make a tour of Heaven, you and I, and we'll select the very best singers in the Beautiful City. We'll start with every angel in our own Hallelujah Choir, of course. But with the other singing groups we must be very careful and most selective. We cannot use one more singer than we need, and we must not include one voice that isn't perfect.'

Together the two friends walked to the part of the Heavenly Fields where the evening begins. It was time for the Vesper Chorus to sing. In the purple and violet shadows, Raphael and Lemuel listened; and as the last lustrous song ended, the Herald Angel turned to his companion.

"Lemuel, we must use the Vesper singers."

"Which of them?" asked the tenor.

"All of them." "All of them?"

"Yes. But remember, Lemuel, that our chorus cannot become too large; and so from now on let us pick and choose with great care."

They went next to hear the Jubilee Chorus, taking care to stand safely back where they would not be jolted and jarred, dazzled and deafened by the blasts of trumpets and thunder which always accompanied their choir's songs.

"How terrible," Raphael said. "How wonderful!"

'What do you mean? What's terrible? What's wonderful?

"Such wonderful music," replied the Herald Angel. "But

isn't it terrible-we shall have to use every one of the Jubilee singers! Our Heavenly Choir is growing so vast that I'll never be able to rehearse them all properly.

It was quite the same when the two angels winged their way to the part of the Beautiful City where the morning begins, there to listen to the music of the Angelus Chorus, sounding like a garden of silver bells. Which, which, which to choose? Lemuel saw the concern on Raphael's face

"Perhaps," he suggested with a gentle smile, "perhaps we should use all of them.

"That's it," shouted Raphael, "All of them!"

But as the two angels approached the Rainbow Field where the Cherubim Choir could be heard, the choirmaster suddenly stopped, "Lemuel," he declared, "we must now be firm. We must be strong. You and I know there are no voices more beautiful than those of the cherubim, but we must be very careful.

"I agree," said Lemuel.

Raphael and Lemuel listened with stubborn expressions on their faces as the cherubim began their hymn of abiding love. "Such innocence in their voices," whispered the tenor. "Don't let yourself be carried away," the Herald Angel warned him.

The pure voices trilled and chimed an anthem of adoration. "Such enchanting tenderness," admitted the choirmaster. "Don't weaken," reminded Lemuel.

At the conclusion of the performance, the Herald Angel

turned to his companion:

'Lemuel, I want to ask you a purely technical question. A musical question, Do you agree that it would be effective musicianship to include at least one cherubic voice in the Heavenly Choir on the night the Gift is given?

Most certainly, Raphael-but just one. "Of course, we'd have to chance that during rehearsals he'd pour a bucket of dew into the tuba, or-

You can almost count on it, Raphael. One or a dozenwhere there are cherubim, there's bound to be mischief."

"One or a dozen-hmmmmmmm." The Herald Angel considered the question. "It would be folly," he finally declared.

The two friends looked at each other. They were firm in their decision. They turned to leave the Rainbow Field, But there was just one thing they had to tell the cherubim first. "At rehearsal tomorrow we want to see all of you."

T IS ONE THING to be a musician, and another to deliver a speech before all the choirs of Heaven. On the night before the first rehearsal, Raphael sat alone in his office, his fingers drumming nervously on his desk. Scraps of paper littered the floor; on each of them he had tried unsuccessfully to outline the talk he must make the following morning.

It was urgent, he felt, that each of the angel singers understand the deep importance of the mission assigned by the Heavenly Father, Raphael wondered whether he should ask Michael to deliver the speech for him. Or perhaps one of the elders.

But no-this was his responsibility. And so far into the night, Raphael wrote his speech, and then rehearsed it just outside the Gates, where there were only clouds and stars to hear him.

The next morning, tired but confident, Raphael walked toward the field where the choirs were to meet. He had gone only part of the way, however, when he came upon the three cherubs who attended his Echo Choir class.

"Good morning, Herald Angel!" piped the first cherub. "May we help you carry your papers . . ?" trilled the second.

... and your baton?" warbled the third.

"Thank you, children," the choirmaster said. "That is very kind of you. Very thoughtful.'

Gratefully, Raphael turned his possessions over to the

cherubs, proceeded to the field, and mounted the gentle slope from which he would address the singers of Heaven. Assembled before him, eager and aglow, were the five angelic choirs.

Raphael looked up a moment later. "My notes, please,"

he whispered to the three cherubs.

'We were playing in a cloud . . ." piped the first.

"... and put them down just for an instant ..." trilled the second.

.. but the cloud has blown away!" warbled the third. No notes! How then could the choirmaster find words for all that he had hoped to explain?

Well, thought Raphael, I can only try!

"All of us," he began, "are our Father's children. Here in Heaven, there is not a moment when we are not surrounded by His love."

Raphael's voice faltered, but in the field the choirs listened

with reverent expectancy

"On earth, however, there are many men and women, and even little children, who are not aware of our Father's compassion."

Raphael stood straight, his robes flowing in long lines.

"Fellow angels-our Father is about to give His beloved Son as a Gift to man, so that they may all come to know the wonder of His way. And you and I have been entrusted to deliver this wondrous message to the world. We have been chosen to proclaim the birth of a prince, the Prince of Peace, from the Heavens. And because of our message, because of the songs we shall sing, mankind will come to know, accept and love God's Offering."

"How glorious!" chorused the angels. "How blessed we

are!"

"Well then," said Raphael with all the briskness he could muster, "let us begin our rehearsal. To your places, everyone! Jubilee Chorus, stay right where you are. Hallelujah singers, I want you farther to my right. Angelus-a little closer, please. Vesper singers-back and to the left, if you will. Now cherubim-will you be kind enough to hand out the music? It's all marked for each choir.'

IN a few moments the choirs were in their places. The Herald Angel raised both hands, calling for the attention of the singers. Alert, anxious to perform correctly, they waited. Lemuel, the tenor soloist stepped forward, "Fear not," he sang . . .

> Fear not, fear not! for behold I bring you good tidings .

Lemuel's bell tones lingered in the air. Then Raphael brought his arms down in a sweeping gesture, a mighty signal to begin.

No angel in Heaven is likely ever to forget that moment. Messengers hovered, transfixed in the air. Scribes dropped their pens in astonishment. Elders looked about in amazement. And Raphael clapped his hands to his ears.

It was awful! The Hallelujah Choir was singing music so high and shrill that their voices broke in squeaks and squeals. The Angelus Chorus rumbled, grumbled and growled. The Vesper singers couldn't even stay in unison, each one struggling lamely to adjust to the unfamiliar key and style of the music that had been placed before him. The cherubim . .

Suddenly, each voice faded; and each head automatically turned toward the front row, where the Cherubim Choir sat, quiet as clouds on a windless morning, looks of pure innocence on every cherubic face, every cherubic eye fixed steadily on the choirmaster, dutifully awaiting his instruc-

Raphael spoke with a patience he did not at that moment feel. "In the future," he quietly announced, "we will relieve the cherubim of the responsibility of distributing the music!"

When at last each choir had received its proper pages, the Herald Angel again raised his arms high, and at his command the multitude of Heavenly voices burst forth:

Glory, glory to God in the highest!

HIS time it was even more beautiful than Raphael had expected. The ringing notes filled the Heavenly City, and angels feasted on the wondrous music. One anthem led into another; the music rose in crescendo to the peak where Raphael knew the message should be announced:

Peace, on earth peace, good will to men!

The hymn was sung and the rehearsal was over; and Raphael could scarcely find a fault. There had been a few passages which could have glowed a bit more, but he knew that all would be perfect with only a little practice. After all, this was the first time the choirs had sung together.

Only Lemuel was not pleased. "Raphael," he said, "I

must have a word with you."

"Yes, Lemuel?"

"The music was beautiful."
"I am glad."

"But you have paid so much attention to the music, Raphael, that you haven't thought how we will look to the people on earth.'

"We'll look like angels, of course."

"No, no!" the tenor said impatiently. "That's not what I mean. Try to remember how pretty a sight it is to see the cherubim perform on a golden morning. Each beautiful little angel is circled in a halo of sunlight. Or watch the Vesper Choir, silhouetted against the Violet hues of the sky at sundown. Raphael, we must be sure that the Heavenly singers are not only marvelous to hear, but glorious to

"Lemuel," the Herald Angel declared, "I don't know how I'd manage without you! What a splendid idea.

Back in the Beautiful City, the two angels learned that the skies were indeed going to be at their most magnificent on the night the Gift was given. The constellations would glimmer and gleam. The winds would be at their softest. And one star of burning beauty would shine and shimmer high above a little town on earth named Bethlehem.

The darkness itself shall be comforting. Clouds will gather like silver draperies across the sky. And we singers, Lemuel exulted, "will take our places behind those clouds."

"Can't you see how beautiful it will be?" cried Raphael. "The moment the Child is born, you, Lemuel, will walk through the clouds alone. Rays of silver and white from this glorious star of wonder will shine upon you. You will sing slowly, my friend, and lovingly, comfortingly, soothingly, 'Fear not'-and then you'll pause-'Fear not.' Sing the entire passage twice, to give mankind time to assemble, to look up to the Heavens and listen. Then the winds, soft and steady, will draw back the curtain of clouds-and behold! the Heavenly Choir will be revealed, singing in splendor!"

Raphael paused, and smiled quietly at his friend. "You have given me one more idea. But I cannot discuss it yet."

T the second rehearsal, Raphael asked the angel choirs to repeat the portion of their hymn which began with the words, "Glory to God in the Highest." It was plain from the way he spoke that he was not displeased, but was simply considering some innovation. Thereafter, at each of the rehearsals, the singers were instructed to repeat this phrase.

Several of the more observant angels noticed that whenever they sang these six beautiful words a second time, Raphael would slowly turn sideways. Only his left side now faced the Heavenly Choir, yet he still directed the pages, at his rth:

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singers as enthusiastically as ever with both his hands.

"Puzzling, isn't it?" asked an alto.

"I've never seen a conductor do such a thing before," replied a harpist.

"Did you notice," asked a bass, "that this sideways gesture always comes promptly at the end of the closing passage? I wonder what is in his mind when he does that."

What the angel chorus did not yet know was that their director was preparing for a moment he was sure would arrive. In his imagination, Raphael could picture great multitudes looking up from earth as the clouds drew aside. He could see their faces shine with joy and trust as they heard Lemuel reveal the coming of the Son. He visualized the rapture with which they would fall to their knees to thank God for His precious Gift. And as their hearts opened, the Herald Angel believed, men would want to join with the angels in singing "Glory to God in the Highest."

Raphael would be ready! During the closing passage, he would turn toward earth . . .

With one arm he would lead the Hallelujah Choir, the Vesper Chorus, the Jubilee singers, the Angelus Choir and the Cherubim Choir . . .

With the other, he would lead all mankind as they blended their voices with the angels in song.

What a finale it would make for this momentous event! What a miracle of love it would be! How pleased the Lord would be with all His children!

But this was Raphael's secret. He held it close.

LVEN a newcomer to the Beautiful City would have realized that this was a special day.

Wherever they went, whatever they did, the angels of Heaven could think of nothing and speak of nothing but the Gift that was to be given to man that night.

"Tonight," they murmured to each other, "the Child will be born."

Wherever they went, whatever they did, they uttered prayers of gratitude.

"Tonight," they said to each other in hushed tones, "mankind will see how dearly God loves the world."

In the large hall at the very end of the corridor, the Heavenly Choir had just completed the last rehearsal. This time the performance was perfect in every detail.

Now all that remained was to wait.

The moments passed. Messengers were poised to soar into the air from one corner of Heaven to the next to announce that the Great Event was taking place. The scribes sat with their books open, their pens ready.

"Lemuel, Lemuel," whispered Raphael as he nervously knotted and twisted the ribbon from which his pitch pipe dangled, "have I forgotten anything? Will it be all right? Are we prepared?"

"It will be magnificent, my friend," the tenor assured him.
"Oh, Lemuel, I pray that you are right."

The musicians tuned their instruments. Clouds floated gently in the sky. The Star of Bethlehem rose high in the Heavens.

And on earth, it was the time when all the men and women had been ordered to their cities to be taxed.

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem! because he was of the house and lineage of David: To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished . . .

A CHILD was born in a manger.

Above, at that very instant, behind the silver curtain of clouds, silently, with scarcely a rustle of their wings and robes, the Heavenly choirs were assembling. From the Gates of the Beautiful City, down starlit paths, they streamed to their appointed places.

Raphael, the Herald Angel, stood before his singers, ready to give them the long-rehearsed, long-awaited signal. The choirs watched their leader breathlessly.

Raphael closed his eyes in silent prayer and thanksgiving. Then slowly he raised his arms—high, high, higher. This was the moment! The air was charged with expectancy. No night had ever been so still, yet so softly alive.

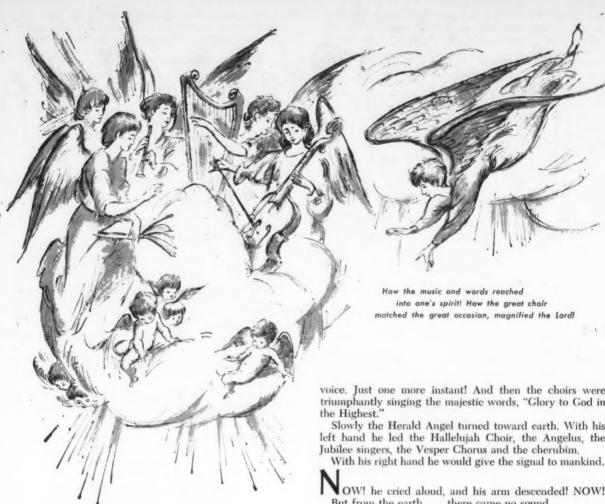
Down, down swept the Herald Angel's arms!

Lemuel, whose voice was the most beautiful in all Heaven, walked slowly through the silver clouds, brilliant white beams from one bright star illuminating his way. His voice filled the universe as he smiled gently, tenderly down at earth:

Fear not, fear not! for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, Which shall be to all people.

Now Lemuel moved closer to earth, repeating his message; and again his rich tones reached to the earth and stars:

For unto you is born this day



In the city of David a Saviour, Which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped In swaddling clothes-lying in a manger!

Lemuel sang the passage comfortingly, lovingly, proudly; and as he concluded Raphael felt upon his cheek the soft wind that had come to draw back the cloud curtain,

Down swept the choirmaster's hand for the signal to all the choirs to unite their voices. Jubilant praise burst in a celestial cascade from the Heavenly singers.

How the music and the words reached into one's spirit! How the great choir matched the great occasion! With what feeling did they magnify the Lord! With what range and volume did their voices echo among the stars!

'Never, never before have angels sung for mortals," thought the Herald Angel. Now, for the very first time, it was happening. Surely, felt Raphael, no one could resist this revelation, the splendor of this night or the power of this mighty sound.

Even at this moment, he knew, the people on earth would be yearning to shout their praises and to sing of their adoration. And he would give them the signal which would invite them to join in the Heavenly hymn!

The choir was approaching those final lines, that place where the Herald Angel would carry out his plan. Heaven and earth, in song together! Angels and man, as one great voice, Just one more instant! And then the choirs were triumphantly singing the majestic words, "Glory to God in

Slowly the Herald Angel turned toward earth. With his left hand he led the Hallelujah Choir, the Angelus, the Jubilee singers, the Vesper Chorus and the cherubim.

OW! he cried aloud, and his arm descended! NOW! But from the earth . . . there came no sound. No wave of human voices, no sea of hallelujahs, no mighty

hymn. Nothing except the half cry of a new born child,

The Heavenly Choir had finished its hymn; Raphael looked earthward in astonishment. No throng was gazing unto Heaven-only a few shepherds in a field, who seemed afraid. Raphael's gaze swept the Judaean landscape. There were no throngs moving worshipfully toward Bethlehem. He turned to the distance, and could see no multitude coming over the hills. He turned to search the streets of the little town, but again he heard only the cry of a child.

"It is impossible," thought the Herald Angel, "that we have been singing, and that none but a few shepherds heard us. Impossible!'

Yet the hills and the streets were dark and empty and quiet. There was no evidence that mankind was aware of the beauty and the wonder of this night; even the shepherds on the hillside were yet silent and still, only confused by the signs above.

Sorrow such as he had never known before filled Raphael. "I have failed," he said. "I have failed."

Somehow, somewhere, he had made a grievous error. Perhaps he had frightened mankind, Perhaps he had not chosen the proper words, the music which would help the people of earth to understand the Heavenly message.

The fault, he decided as he looked down into the indifferent darkness and silence of the earth, was his. Because he had labored in vain, because he-Raphael, the Herald Angel, God's messenger and envoy-had not performed well

the work of the Lord, the Lord's message had not been embraced.

They did not hear," he said to himself. "They did not understand, They did not welcome the news, I have failed with the most important assignment I have ever had." For the first time, tears of deepest melancholy glistened in an angel's eves.

Without a word, Raphael signalled the choirs to return to the Beautiful City. Slowly, silently, sadly the singers filed back into the clouds.

Lemuel lingered, offering his hand to help Raphael ascend to Heaven. "Tell me, dear friend," asked the Herald Angel, "what did I do that was wrong? Where did I make my mistake? The people did not hear us, Lemuel. They did not hear."

But the tenor could give no answer.

Still, Raphael knew, the most painful moment was yet to come-for in the Mighty Place his report was awaited.

He could not tarry, and he did not.

Within the great hall there was the usual activity; the elders consulting, the scribes busy with their scrolls and pens, the messengers moving rapidly in and out of the hall. Gabriel was there, trumpet ready as always, and Michael, his hand on his sheathed, blazing sword. But as Raphael entered, all activity ceased. All eyes turned as he approached the front of the room, his heart deeply troubled, his eyes downcast.

'Raphael," spoke the Great Voice, "be not troubled. Do not give yourself up to thoughts of failure, I know what is in your heart, and I can see what is in your mind. Know this, you have done well. Even as I commanded, you carried out your task. I am pleased.'

The Herald Angel replied: "If, indeed, my task was done according to Thy wishes, please grant me one request."

"What is it, my son?"

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"Now that my work is finished," Raphael said softly, "I would like to be relieved of my duties as director of the Hallelujah Choir.

Everyone had heard, but no one dared believe his ears. This had never happened before. It would be like Gabriel putting aside his trumpet, or Michael unbuckling his sword.

HEN the Great Voice spoke again: "As you wish, Raphael. You may withdraw as director of the Hallelujah Choir. Perhaps a period of meditation would be helpful."

"I am grateful," said the Herald Angel, and turned to

leave. But the Great Voice interrupted him.

"Remember this, my son; you were responsible tonight only for the duty you performed faithfully and well.

Raphael hesitated to speak again, but the burden on him was heavy.

'Father," he said, "Thine angel choirs never sang so beautifully as they did this night. Thy universe was never so lovely. No message has ever been more wonderful. But it was as though no one seemed to care. I do not yet know how or where or when I failed, or what I overlooked. For Thy forgiveness I give deep thanks; but within me is the feeling that I have erred. I cannot understand, I cannot understand . .

Shaking his head in sorrow, the Herald Angel withdrew. Gabriel spoke to him as he left, and so did Michael, but Raphael only nodded mutely. He turned to his office down the long corridor. There on the desk he made a neat stack of the papers and notes which he had accumulated during the many long months of work and rehearsal. He covered

his musical instruments. And then he darkened the room, and left.

In the hall he felt someone brush against him, an angel sweeping swiftly through the corridor. It was the Angel of Death, hurrying toward the great, shining Gates.

One of the nearby messengers explained: "The Angel of Death is going to earth. There has been a slaughter of innocent children.

"Yes, Raphael," added another, "one of the lesser kings seeks to destroy the Gift. But Mary and Joseph have been warned, and have fled.

The news brought deeper sorrow to the Herald Angel. Had mankind heard God's message, their children would be safe. The Child would be their Prince of Peace. "If only they had heard!" he thought, "If only I had not failed!"

APHAEL!"

Had the choirmaster really heard his name called? Or was it only a trick of his imagination? Who could be interrupting his meditations in the Silent Grove? Didn't every angel in Heaven realize that here no one was to be disturbed?

The Herald Angel raised his eyes in astonishment- and found himself peering into the smiling face of Lemuel. The tenor nodded at him pleasantly. "Come, Raphael," Lemuel said as if there were nothing the least bit unusual

about his presence. "Come with me."
"Do not disturb me, old friend," answered the choirmaster, "I am thinking.

"And so you have been," Lemuel readily agreed, "for more than nineteen hundred years.'

"Years? Centuries? Days? What are they to us? Nineteen hundred years are less than a moment on the eternal calendar," Raphael replied with some annoyance. "If I still feel the need to remain in silence, please observe the





rules and allow me to do so. No one else has interrupted me at any time for any reason, You, my closest friend, should know better than to do so!"

HE smile left Lemuel's face. "I have been commanded to come here, Raphael. I have been ordered to take you with me."

"Where are we going?"

"To earth."

"To earth!" exclaimed Raphael, springing to his feet in alarm. "No, that I cannot do! See here, Lemuel, you know that I have remained here in the Silent Grove since the night we sang for man. I have spoken to no one. I have listened to no one. During all that time, my thoughts have been concerned with just one question—how did I fail in bringing news of the Gift to mankind? What did I do wrong? And only this morning, Lemuel, only this morning did I at last realize the answer!"

Lemuel gazed steadily at his friend, but did not speak. "Yes," continued Raphael, "today I came to see that the fault was not mine, nor that of the music we sang, nor that of the words of our hymns. The fault lies in man himself! Mankind did not want to understand. Men are hopeless."

The choirmaster returned to his seat. Every determined line of his body made it plain that he would not budge. "Yes," he repeated, "men are hopeless. I will have nothing more to do with them."

Lemuel gently placed his hand on Raphael's shoulder. "You have explained why I am here. Our Father knows the path your thoughts have taken. That is why He has commanded me to lead you out of the Silent Grove. Tonight, Raphael, is the anniversary of the journey we made together on the night the Child was born. And tonight we must return."

The Herald Angel knew there could be no further delay. Without even a backward glance, he followed Lemuel out of the Grove, through the streets of the Beautiful City, past the Rainbow Field where the cherubim play, and through the Majestic Gates. Into the darkness the two angels flew.

Between Heaven and earth, Raphael wanted to linger. There, between star and satellite, there where the past, the present and the future all meet, he wished to tarry. But Lemuel refused.

"We travel far tonight," he said. "There is much for you

"I am ready," Raphael replied. "But before we go farther, Lemuel, please tell me one thing. How did it fare with the Child on earth?"

"All but a few men rejected him," said Lemuel. "After only a short time He was slain."

HE Herald Angel covered his face with his hands, and slowly shook his head.

"I will go with you. Why we are going I cannot understand-but I will go, I am ready."

Swiftly, soundlessly, the two angels continued their journey until at last they paused to rest on a cloud which hovered just above the flickering lights of a city.

"How high they make their buildings!" said Raphael.
"Some of those buildings reach all the way to Heaven,"
answered Lemuel. "Mortals call them churches. They have
been built to honor God, and to worship His Gift to mankind."

"Impossible!" declared the Herald Angel. "The Son of God was not accepted. You yourself just told me that."

"You have been in the Silent Grove for almost twenty centuries, dear friend. You have much to learn tonight. Come close with me to this building, and read the words that are carved above the door."

Raphael peered at the inscription. For thine is the kingdom, he read, and the power, and the glory, forever.

"Does this mean," he asked, "that there are still a few men and women on earth who love our Father and His Son as we do?"

"Far more than a few!" answered Lemuel. "Look around you, Raphael—this is a city, one of the biggest that man has ever built. Now look far over, far far beyond that river, to where only a few lights are glimmering in the night. Raphael, both this giant city and that tiny town have many buildings dedicated to the Son of God.

"He was a healer. They have built hospitals in His name on earth, where the sick are housed and cured. He was a teacher. Man has built many places of learning, again in His name and glory.

"Look, Raphael, look at the window of this school for children. Do you see all the paintings and pictures the children have pasted to the panes? These are all symbols of the Gift. These snowflakes, these trees, these wreaths, these gaily colored balls—and here, Raphael, here's a drawing of an angel!"

The Herald Angel laughed. It was the first time he had laughed in almost two thousand years.

"Oh, this is a wonderful visit!" cried Raphael. "Moreplease, let us see more."

"We will. Come, let us walk along their streets." "Oh, no-no, dear friend, we'll frighten them."

"This time they shall not see us. But," the angel added, "look at those crowds! Be sure they do not frighten you!"

In an instant the two friends were separated. Raphael found himself being pushed along, pulled, jostled; girls, their faces shining, their arms piled high with multi-colored packages, loomed up before him. Laughing children were under-foot and under-wing. "Merry Christmas," he heard them say as they bumped into one another. "Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!"

The Herald Angel did not understand.

"You see," the tenor explained, "men and women celebrate the Birth of the Son by exchanging gifts. At this time of the year they remember people they have never even seen, and never will. On this day, as on no other, they find

joy in giving. And most of all, Raphael, they give presents to their children.

"But that is not the only way they celebrate the Giving of the Gift," Lemuel continued. "In their churches they meet to pray by the light of many candles. Look below, Raphael, through the open doors of that little church; you will see how vividly people remember each moment of that night almost two thousand years ago."

Raphael's face glowed with happiness. "Yes—there is the Mother, the Child, Joseph, and three shepherds. Are the people speaking, Lemuel? Or are they singing?"

"You will have your answer, Raphael. Let me take you into one of their homes."

It was a modest home on a starlit street that the two angels selected. As they approached they could see a rainbow of colored lights reflected in the windows; from within they heard voices, young voices.

There were three children in the room, and with them their mother and father.

All were gathered round a large tree that reached to the ceiling, and glowed with small lights and ornaments. Raphael looked questioningly toward Lemuel. "It is a symbol of this holy day," Lemuel replied. "It is called a Christmas tree. And Raphael, don't look so worried. These mortals can neither see nor hear us."

One of the little boys was tugging at his father's arms. "Read us a story before we go to bed," he begged. "Please

read us a Christmas story, Daddy!'

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The husband looked at his wife, and a smile passed between them. "This is the time," the father said, "to read the best Christmas story of all." He walked to the side of the room where a case held many books, and selected a large one from the shelves. The place for reading was already marked.

Slowly, with deep feeling in his voice, he read from the book: "And it came to pass in those days..."

The children grew silent as they heard ancient words that were ever new.

"And brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...

"And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night..."

Raphael listened and watched, and was carried back twenty centuries. He strained for every word.

"And the angel said unto them: 'Fear not, for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."

Now the Herald Angel could contain himself no longer. "Your words, Lemuel!" he whispered to his companion. "Those are the very words you sang as you walked through the clouds!"

But before the tenor could reply, new sounds filled the air—laughter, and from the house glad cries of welcome. There in a semi-circle on the snow-covered lawn were children, laughing children, tall and short, thin and chubby, their eyes as bright—yes, Raphael decided—as bright as those of the cherubim.

"They have come to sing Christmas carols," Lemuel explained. "It is the custom."

The children's faces glowed with the twinkling red, green, blue, yellow and white lights of the Christmas tree. The tallest boy stepped forward. He raised his arms high in a signal for quiet; higher, higher—and then he brought them down, and led the group in song.

"Glory to God in the Highest," they sang, "and on earth, peace, good will to men!"

This was the first time in almost twenty centuries that

Raphael had listened to a group of singers. With the interest of a professional musician, he observed the way the young voices blended, and watched the confident gestures of the young conductor. "They have a pleasant freshness in their voices," he thought, "They stay on key. I could do much with them."

HEN, suddenly, the Herald Angel became aware of the words of the carol. They were his words! It was the song of the Angel Choir on the night the Child was born!

"Lemuel," he shouted, "they are singing the song of the Heavenly Chorus. It wasn't lost—our songs were never lost! Our message was heard! They heard us, Lemuel! We did not fail!"

He closed his eyes tight shut. He raised his arms toward Heaven. "Father," the Herald Angel whispered, "Father, I thank Thee!"

And from above—Raphael heard a high note, a low note and a middle note. Three cherub voices, voices bubbling with happiness, picked up the refrain. And then they were joined by others—by the Hallelujah Choir, the Vesper singers, the Jubilee Chorus, the Angelus Choir, and by all the pure sweet voices of all the cherubim.

The magnificent sound rose. Slowly the choirmaster turned, rapture lighting his face—his left side to Heaven, his right side toward the children on the lawn. The voices of the two spheres blended into a joyous carol that resounded through the skies.

And Raphael, the Herald Angel, led the mighty chorus.

— The End—



aily Seditations by HALFORD E. LUCCOCK

Monday, December 1

READ MATTHEW 19:13-15

IT IS A GREAT gift to be able to see the relative importance of things in our life. In the first volume of Who's Who In America, published 60 years ago, Lady Randolph Churchill, the American-born wife of a British statesman, wrote quite a long biography for the book. But she evidently did not think it worth while to mention that she had a son, Winston!

The children in a family can be the most important things in the life of the parents, their greatest contribution to the world. The children of a church ought to be its greatest responsibility and contribution.

For the ongoing life of the family and the church of Christ, we give Thee our continuing thanks, O God. Help us to meet our responsibility. Amen.

Tuesday, December 2

READ PSALM 84:2-4

A RECENT BOOK stated that it is the function of religion "to make a man feel at home in the world." This is both true and false. It is true in the high, glorious sense, that we are the children of God, that we come "from God, who is our home," and that we are in our Father's house. The Christian knows that he is not lost in a far country, that he cannot drift beyond God's love and care.

But there is a bad sense of feeling "at home" in the world. A man can make himself so comfortably at home in the world about him, that it becomes his whole universe and he forgets the spiritual world to which he belongs.

Help us always to remember, O God, that we are Thy children and to be unsatisfied until we are at home in Thy will and love. In the spirit of Jesus, Amen.

Wednesday, December 3

READ PSALM 3:1-4

MOST OF US have wondered, while reading the Psalms, what the word "selah" meant. It is often found as a sort of exclamation. The great Quaker religious leader, Rufus Jones, says it was a sort of exclamation point of wonder, thrill or admiration. "The psalmist felt himself face to face with some great truth. It expanded him to the utmost, and then there came a moment of pause and hush and quiet. Then he uttered the exclamation "Selah!" which may be translated, "Think of that!"

Put those words into your daily vocabulary. Say, "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth." Think of that! "Casting all your care upon Him: for He careth for you." Think of that!

Help us to keep alive the sense of the wonder of Thy love and care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thursday, December 4

READ PSALM 91:1-5

ON MANY BILLBOARDS in the country, there have been signs promoting the "Go to Church" movement. One slogan reads, "Take your troubles to church and leave them there." That, in many ways, is great wisdom. We read in the 91st Psalm, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust." We ought to leave our worries in God, when we take them to church.

But we *ought* to remember some things which deeply trouble us. We ought to be troubled about human need and suffering. We ought to be troubled about the world's welfare. We must not forget these troubles, but gain strength in church to face such concerns.

O God, let us have the mind of Christ, and feel the needs of others. Amen.

Friday, December 5

READ ROMANS 12:15

SOMEONE SAID of Robert Louis Stevenson, the novelist and story writer, "He died with a thousand stories in his heart." He died young. There were other stories, perhaps like *Treasure Island*, which never got told. It is a good way to live, with many stories in our hearts. It is good to live with the needs of other people laid on our hearts. Some people have only one story, "Me, forever." They are like a phonograph with only one record. The true disciple of Jesus carries many stories in his heart and on his mind.

Open our eyes, O God, that we may

be quick to see the needs of others, where we may enter helpfully into other lives. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Saturday, December 6

READ JOHN 13:34, 35

JEWISH NOVELIST Sholem Asch made several trips to the Holy Land in preparation for his novels about Jesus and Paul. He built one of the world's largest collections of Biblical literature, and has many coins and religious objects. He said he wanted "to get the feel of Biblical times."

A fine idea—"to get the feel of Biblical times." It would be a tremendous thing for Christians to do that. But the true "feel" of early Christian times will not be brought about by coins and books alone, It will come by facing the situations and tasks which the early Christians faced—such as giving a clear witness to faith in Christ in the midst of paganism, and striving to carry the Christian evangel to all the world,

We thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast ever called us into Thy service. May we go into the world with the conviction that we are sent by Thee. Amen.

Sunday, December 7

READ PSALM 34:8

JESUS' WAY of life brings its own evidence that it is the right way to live. A great Christian soul in England has said that if we are honest with life, if we face it sincerely and are willing to learn what it has to teach, we do become aware of One who speaks to us of duty and love, not something but Someone.

The best way to find out that Jesus' teaching is everlastingly right is to do what He says. It is to answer His invitation, "Come and see."

May we put the truth which Thou has revealed in Christ to the test of following His teaching. May we taste and see that the Lord is good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday, December 8

READ MATTHEW 9:36-38

IN AN OLD COPY of *Punch* there was a lively picture of a small boy in bed, lying on his back and kicking joyfully at the air, bubbling with the joy

of life. He is asking a man, "Uncle John, what do you do when you feel too well in the morning?"

Many of us would say that we are not bothered much by that problem! But the child's question does raise a real issue. What should we do when all goes well with us, when we have a sense of the goodness of life, particularly our own fortunes? There are two things to do. First, thank God with all our hearts for all the blessings of life. Second, share the goodness which has come to us with others in their need of health, of happiness, of friendship and love.

Help us, O God, also to learn "to abound." In the spirit of Jesus, Amen.

Tuesday, December 9

READ II TIMOTHY 1:1-5

MUCH HAS BEEN written of some wild tribes of the South Pacific known as "head hunters." In their primitive savage days they would sever the heads of their enemies, then shrink them and

preserve them.

Take that phrase "head hunters" in a very different and higher sense. It is a task for people in Christian churches to be "head hunters," in the sense that they "hunt for heads" which can be used by God for His work. Think of Christian mothers who have dedicated their children to God, as Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, Think of the Sunday-school teachers who hunted heads which God could use, as the teacher of D. L. Moody did, and as the friend who found William Carey, the first missionary to India. Try being a "head hunter" for God.

May our influence be used on lives that will be used for Thee. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday, December 10

READ MATTHEW 6:9-13

I have one passion. It is He,

-COUNT ZINZENDORF

A YOUNG MAN asked a question of an old, experienced pastor, "What is the best translation of the New Testament?" The pastor replied, "The best translation of the New Testament is the life which translates the words of the New Testament into deed and actions." He was right. Jesus said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." There are many people who will pay little or no attention to any translation of the Bible except that into Christian acts which they can see in the lives of Christians about them.

Try translating for yourself the Lord's Prayer into the kind of actions which make its meaning clear.

May we be epistles, known and read by men, making clear the meaning of Thy word. Amen.



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Thursday, December 11

READ MATTHEW 6:13

"LEAD US NOT into temptation." Some scholars have pointed out that the Aramaic words Jesus used for "Lead us not" lack the idea of deliberate intent. It seems to be that Jesus thought the danger in temptations was so great that He bade men include it in their prayers.

If we make this prayer truly, we must follow it by action, keeping ourselves away from the range of temptation. Start counter pressures on behalf of good actions and keep a mind full of good thoughts.

Lead us, O God, not into temptation but deliver us from evil. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, December 12

READ MARK 3:1-6

Surely the words of the great invitation. "Come unto me," in their very sound, are a benediction; a cathedral bell of man's pilgrimage.

-George A. Buttrick

CONSIDER MANY of the healings which Jesus performed. Notice, as in our reference from the Gospel of Mark today, that even when Jesus' enemies were watching, He did not shrink from doing an act of mercy. Jesus could have avoided trouble and told the man with a withered hand to "come back tomorrow." He cared far more about helping people in need than in looking after Himself. Do we ever say to people in need, "Some other time," or "Come back tomorrow"? Jesus' actions lead to this lesson-"if you know of a need that can be met, do it today, not tomorrow."

Help us, O God, as we go on our way to see the outstretched hands of people, and to respond immediately to opportunities to help. Amen.

Saturday, December 13

READ MATTHEW 6:7-10

A SIGN in a branch bank in a Michigan town reads, "No business transacted on Sunday." In the immediate meaning, that is a situation we wish prevailed all over our country. The breaking down of Sunday is an increasing calamity to our country. But in another sense, the words are all too tragically true of church people. Some never really transact business on Sunday. They go to church, perhaps, but no real business between God and them is completed! There is no commitment of life, no deep prayer of gratitude pours forth. There is no real business transacted as there is when Jesus says, "Follow me," and a person responds, "I will."

May the words of our mouths become the deeds of our hands and lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunday, December 14

READ MATTHEW 19:16-22

MANY OF US are familiar with the story of Father Damien, the missionary to the leper colony in an island in the Pacific Ocean, not far from Honolulu. He was selfless in his dedication to the needs of the lepers, whom most people passed by in fright, He did not refuse the assignment to that difficult and dangerous task. His first act on arriving at the island of Molokai was to say a prayer and grab a broom!

He always began his talks with the words, "My brethren." One day he changed that to "We lepers"-he had become a leper himself. Such sharing of their afflictions gave him a terrific power to win the love of the patients.

Grant, O God, that no cautious selfconcern may keep us back from giving ourselves in service to others. In the spirit of Jesus, Amen.

Monday, December 15

READ MATTHEW 6:9, 10

OUR MEDITATION today is to be on one question. It is short, but important. Ask it of yourself and try to give a completely honest answer.

A British author asked a conference of teachers, "Are you helping to make a new world, or are you trying to pickle the world as it is?" Think it over, A better world will never be achieved if we are willing to keep it just as it is.

Help us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come," and then to do the will of God. Amen.

Tuesday, December 16

READ PROVERBS 8:17

WE OFTEN sing heartily, "early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee," We mean it, But suppose it were true-that early in the morning, every morning, our prayer did rise to God. Have you ever really tried it? Muriel Lester has given a helpful word of counsel, "Directly you wake, the very instant, immediately turn your thoughts to God in joy, greet Him in words, not said words, necessarily, but words clear in your own mind. . . . This will soon become an automatic habit, taking about six seconds and you will awake with Him with His name "on your lips."

That is an invitation.

Early in the morning-and through the day-our song shall rise to Thee, In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday, December 17

READ PSALM 31:5, 6

YESTERDAY we thought about prayer as the first thing on awakening. Think today of prayer as the last thing at night. Again Muriel Lester has helpful suggestions about this. She writes, "Before you go to bed, get quiet for a few minutes... and let all the things that have worried you, or that have made you ashamed of yourself during the day, or things you have not understood, come back in order quietly in God's presence. The burden of it goes as you face it squarely in the presence of God." Let the last thing you think before sleep be, "Father, into Thy hands,"

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We commit our spirits unto Thee, O God, morning and night, that our thoughts and acts may be in Thy keeping, In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thursday, December 18

READ LUKE 2:10

"DADDY, MAKE some news?" So commanded a little boy who had been left in the car while his father made a call. The father had been listening to a news broadcast and turned it off when they reached their destination. The little boy wanted his daddy to turn it on again and "make some news."

We smile at the boy's phrase, but it has a great idea in it. Do not merely listen to news; make some. Give to the world the great and welcome news of one more dedicated life, of one more unselfish spirit, of one more disciplined life, doing God's service. The "good news" from God was a life. It is always so.

May our lives demonstrate to those who see us and know us that God's spirit is active today in our lives. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Friday, December 19

READ HEBREWS 3:13

ONE OF THE FINEST tributes ever said to a person is the description of Barnabas as a "son of encouragement." Sometimes the word is translated, "son of exhortation," but the word has a root meaning of rousing courage in a person. What a role in life it is to be an "encourager"! So many people get low in their minds. We all do at times. A person who by his very presence gives courage and hope is a very gift of God. It is not done by flattery or any trick-it is the outreach of a warmhearted person of sympathy and fortitude, extending to another a lift of courage. An India poet wrote, "I saw God's footprints on my floor when you

O God, may we be the carriers of good will, of sympathy as we go among people and grow to deserve the name of encourager. Amen.

Saturday, December 20

READ LUKE 1:76-79

THIS IS the Saturday before Christmas. At daybreak Monday and even

SAVE THE CHILDREN



Christos has almost given up hope

Little Christos never has any fun. Life to this ten year old Greek boy is drudgery and bitter poverty. And yet, Christos has a dream . . . some day he will make life better for himself and his family. And so he walks many miles each day to attend third grade in a small, dark room that passes for a grammar school. He learns the lives of venerated men who gave so much to Greek culture and to the world-Aristotle, Plato, Socrates-and he dreams. In the late evening, he returns home leaving just enough time to do some errands and study his lessons. But life is so dark now . . . how long can he live and nurse his dream and carry hope in his heart?

Christos' parents were married just after the war when everyone hoped for a better future. Instead, Communist inspired uprisings spread over the country. Christos' father, joined the National Guard and took part in many battles. When guerilla bands entered his village they destroyed his house and burned all his belongings.

Life for Christos' family began all over—from nothing. They now live in a hut with a roof of straw. They own three pieces of furniture. All must sleep on straw mats on the cold earthen floor. Their only property is a

quarter acre of land which the father cultivates early in the morning and after dark. During the daylight hours he must work on other farmers' land for daily wages to buy food.

Christos sees his father's plight and thinks."My father struggles for a better future; I must help him." At the age of 10, Christos still has hope.

Save the children and you save the family

If only someone could extend a hand to help Christos and his family help themselves, give them courage for the future that looks so dark at this moment. Someone can, and that someone is you. A child like Christos be-"your child" through an SCF Sponsorship and receives food packages, warm clothing and many other material benefits in your name. But the whole family receives the greatest gift of all—"hope." You may correspond with your child and discover for yourself what your understanding and generosity means to a struggling family. Won't you please fill in the coupon now?

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tomorrow, radio, television and newspapers will proclaim in thundering tones, as though it is the end of the world, "Only three more shopping days till Christmas." True, it is late, if you are planning to buy out a department store!

But listen to these words, "Only four days till Christmas." Do not let the great festival of God's love revealed in Christ slip up on you unaware. Four days for getting the mind ready for God's unspeakable gift. Four days for thinking of the world's need of Christ. Four days! Make some quiet spots for thinking.

No ear may hear His coming But in this world of sin Where meek hearts will receive Him still The dear Christ enters in.

Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift! Amen.

Sunday, December 21

READ HEBREWS 11:37-40

EVERY YEAR at Cooperstown, New York, the national shrine of baseball, they honor Mr. Abner Doubleday, reputed to be the originator of the game. The ceremonies are not all speeches and verbal tributes. The people do not exhaust themselves by singing, "Game of our Fathers, happy game, we will be true to Thee till death." Not at all. The teams play baseball. The best way to honor founders is to do what they did! The best way to honor the early founders of our religion is to act as they acted for God, with courage, endurance and love.

Help us to remember, O God, that others have labored and we have entered into their labors. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday, December 22

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

JOHN GALSWORTHY wrote of one of the women in his novel, A Man of Property, that June Forsyte always "held her head high and kept a flag flying in her heart." Isn't that a tribute that we can all work for? She never became a defeatist. Some people seem always to have their flag flying at half mast, when they have any flag at all. Their mournful and listless attitude proclaims, "What's the use? We might as well give up. You can't win." Paul kept a flag of victory flying in his heart: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Teach us the secret of being content in Thee, O God, whatever situation we may be in. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday, December 23

READ MATTHEW 26:33, 34

A DRAMATIC critic said of a play,

Seek and Ye Shall Find

When we look at the world in a narrow way

How small and narrow it seems!

When we look at the world in a cynical way

How futile are all of our dreams!

But when we look up with friendly eyes And with thoughts that are kind and for-

Our hearts are filled with joy and surprise At the good world in which we are living.

-Gardner L. Green

"It lacks the courage of its first act." The play "fizzled," for it did not make good the promise of a first act. Life may become like that. In early life a fine dedication of life is often made, only to have its zeal and energy and courage for doing good slow down or evaporate. The great "first act" is over. No excitement any more.

May we keep alive the commitment we have made to Thee, O God. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Wednesday, December 24

READ MATTHEW 2:9-11

A LITTLE GIRL was saying her prayers a few nights before Christmas when she stopped suddenly and asked her mother a question, She asked, with a worried look, "What are we giving God for Christmas? What does God want for Christmas?"

We smile, But it is an important question. "Is God on your Christmas list?" Aunt Tillie and Cousin George and a dozen others are on it. Is God? He does not need anything just as things. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." He wants you, He wants the love of our hearts, the allegiance of our minds, the following of our feet.

On the birthday of Christ, O God, may we reach into whatever treasure chest we have and bring forth gifts unto Thee. Amen.

Thursday, December 25

READ II CORINTHIANS 9:15 EPHESIANS 2:8

THINK OF ONE among the many gifts which Jesus brought to the world. Just one. He brought to the world a new calendar. He ran a line through time. It is either B.C., before Christ, or A.D., the year of our Lord. We cannot date a letter, December 25, 1958, without paying tribute to Jesus. He brings a new calendar in the life of each one of us, the day when we became definitely Christ's follower; the days when we receive His forgiveness; the day when we joined Christ's

Church. Live by Christ's new calendar—the year of our Lord.

May each of our years, O God, be the year of our Lord, years in which He rules our lives. Amen,

Friday, December 26

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READ LUKE 2:15-20

Jesus, whose name is not so much written, as plowed into the history of the world.

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON

THE DAY AFTER Christmas! It is often a dull day of anti-climax, of overloaded digestions. But it ought to be a supremely happy day, if the good news of Christmas is not discarded like a worn-out Christmas tree. There is a perfect text for this day in the story of the visit of the shepherds to the manger at Bethlehem. It is the last act in the drama. We read, "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God." They went back to the old life, keeping sheep on the same hills. Yet it was a new, different life, full of praise to God and full of joy in the good news of God's gift.

So today we can go back to the old life with a new joy in our hearts and in the routine there will run the strains of "Joy to the world. The Lord is come"

May the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ shine all day. In His name, Amen.

Saturday, December 27

READ PSALM 27:1-4

TWO GREAT POWERS to be exercised in religion are beautifully pictured in the Scripture reference for today, "To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple." There they are, emotion and reasoning. Religious life and growth need both. To behold the beauty of the Lord, His grace, His wondrous love. This arouses deep emotion. "To enquire in the temple" involves loving God with the mind, as Jesus commanded that we do. Our religion must be more than emotion. It must involve the dedication of our thinking powers.

May we love Thee, O God, with the consent of all our powers, those of heart and brain. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunday, December 28

READ JAMES 1:6

OFTEN IT IS TRUE that we do not expect much to happen when we meet with God in prayer. Often our worship has lost the thing that makes it exciting, the expectation that something will happen from the side of God, where two or three are gathered together in His name. Never lose an expectation that action comes from God's side as



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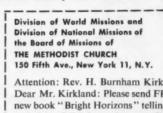
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DECEMBER 1958

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With Jews still looking for their Messiah you might ask: "Is there a Christmas in Israel?"

This little orphan along with other children are needy in Israel. All their lives all they have known has been suffering.

Some of the Yemenite Jews in their great exodus to Israel were so undernourished they could hardly hold food. They were numb from weeks of terror and hope.

A child of 12 weighed what a youngster of four should weigh. This is one of the many reasons we are ministering in Israel. God has led us to help these little children. We believe they are the future missionaries or Christian witnesses in Israel.

Is there a Christmas in Israel? There can be-with your help! Hebrew Christians are still suffering discrimination. Their children become targets of ridicule.

Your heart will be rejoicing if at this blessed Christmas season you help relieve distress and give a little happiness to needy, hungry Hebrew Christians in Israel and in Europe. Remember especially the little children and the aged Hebrew Christians whom we support in Homes.



Secretary

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well as our own, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ve shall find.'

May we ask in faith for Thy blessing on our lives and work that our joy in Thee, O God, may be full. Amen.

Monday, December 29

READ MATTHEW 20:25-28

A WONDERFULLY appealing ideal of life is found in the words of G. B. Shaw in a letter to a friend: "This is the true joy of life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrapheap, the being a force of nature instead of a feverish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." How about that for one of your aims for 1959?

Help us to come into our world. O God, not to be ministered unto but to minister, Amen.

Tuesday, December 30

READ II CORINTHIANS 5:17-19

SOMETIMES WE GET so oppressed with the routine of life that it seems like seeing a movie the second time. There can be no surprise, all the words, acts, and gestures will be the same. But, as God lives, life never need get like that. We do not need to do the same things over in the same way! We do not need to make the same mistakes, do the same wrong things! We can, by God's grace become new creatures in Christ Tesus

Help us. O God, to realize that we may draw on Thy strength and love to make our tomorrows better than our uesterdays and todays. Amen.

Wednesday, December 31

READ PSALM 84:11, 12

ON THIS LAST DAY of the year, fill your mind with the possibilities of God's grace and His help in the year to come. A sign in Yonkers, New York, seen from the New York Central tracks reads, "Conversions, repairs and welding." That, in a figurative sense, is what we need, isn't it? And it is what God can give to us. Conversion-that is, a changed life, with new goals and new powers in Christ, Repairs-we can have repaired all our dedications which have broken down, our failures in relationships which badly need repair, Welding-we can be joined to God in a more powerful discipleship, "All this and Heaven, too!" for the earnest asking in

As we go into the unknown country of the new year, go with us, Our Father, that Thou mayest be our sun and our shield. In Jesus' name, Amen.

REJOICE

(Continued from page 26)

understand," says the ordinary citizen, what you mean by Christian joy. I know what I mean by joy in the home, in the club, at the theater: but I don't know much about this religious joyand if I did, I'm not sure that I would want it. I'm quite capable of having a merry Christmas without any of this religious stuff."

To blow away these misunderstandings, to release Christian joy from any entanglement in a dim and false religiosity, it needs to be said right away that when the Bible says joy it means joy, and when it says rejoice it means rejoice in the full human sense of the word. The early Christians took the word that expressed the glad laughter of a child, the delight of a couple in love, the thrill of an artist before a thing of beauty, the sense of achievement and fulfillment-and they used that word to describe the Christian life and the nature of God Himself. It was not an odd or peculiar quality they were talking about, but joy as it is known by the ordinary man. And they simply said that this, like all other human qualities and instincts, could be focused, strengthened, purified, enlarged and completed "in the Lord."

So "Rejoice in the Lord" is a com-

mandment for Christians. You can't tell a man who doesn't own any Lord to rejoice in the Lord. It is a commandment directed to those who believe. How can any one command me to rejoice? It is related that King Frederick the Great of Prussia once noticed from his coach a man with a miserable look on his face. Leaping to the ground in a rage the King seized the unfortunate man and began to belabor him with his cane: "How dare you look so miserable? Don't you know that I have commanded all my subjects to be happy?"

We have to distinguish between our passing moods and the settled mold of our hearts. There's not a great deal we can do about our moods-except to refuse to be enslaved by them. We are all subject to the gloomy mood that falls on us because of some apprehension, some bad news, some disappointment or, quite possibly, some internal controversy in the liver. We cannot be radiantly happy to order-even on Christmas morning. But the mold of our hearts and minds, their settled shape and bias, can be set, and ought to be set, in the pattern of joy. At any time we can know that, no matter how we feel, the foundation of all things is joy, not sorrow, and the end of the road

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is rejoicing for all those who believe.

How can our hearts and minds respond to this commandment and be molded in the shape of joy everlasting? Not by a process of auto-suggestion, not by growing a hard skin to shield us from the darts of sorrow, but by letting the seed of the Christian Gospel so take root in us that the fruit of joy will grow, You remember Paul's beautiful description of the Christian life-"the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. Joy is the fruit of a life in which the Spirit of Christ has taken root. We don't grow fruit by effort. With the right seed, the right nurture and the right soil, it appears. That is how joy in its deepest sense appears and becomes the permanent possession of the Christian. Paul knew what he was writing about-the commandment to rejoice was written when all his highest ambitions lay in ruins around him.

We obey the commandment to rejoice by having the seed of the Gospel planted in us and by letting it grow. It grows as we continue to feed on the truth that is revealed to us.

Do you ever think of God as sheer joy? We think of Him as sheer love, sheer holiness, sheer omnipotence—but we have every warrant also for thinking of Him as pure joy. I have often quoted the answer to the first question in the catechism—"Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

Sometimes people are a little bashful about saying they enjoyed a service of worship. They have a lurking suspicion that they were not meant to enjoy it. Granted that divine worship ought to bow us down in awe and reverence and that at times God's Word may humiliate and rebuke us, isn't it also true that we are intended to enjoy the family worship in the Father's house? What did the psalmist say—"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

The whole Bible is aflame with this joy of worship and it has been echoed in the singing of the church through the ages. "Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving," "Make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms." How can we have forgotten this joy in the heart of God and its universal power to evoke real joy in mortal tongues? And how can we for a moment imagine that even on the human level there could be more real joy in the squeals of the devotees of rock-n-roll than in the triumphant cascades of the Hallelujah Chorus pouring from a choir?

God is joy. And if to worship Him is to grow like Him, then the set and mold of our hearts will be joyful. And the more we learn of true Christian worship the more we shall know beneath the vapories of transient moods the joy of the Lord as our strength.

The joy of God is stated in the Bible

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We know ourselves that our deepest joys are linked with creative acts-from the crudest attempt at carpentry to the creation of a child-so we can understand that divine impulse that brought this whole universe into being "when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.'

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." There is nothing in the Bible to warrant the idea that this world and all it contains is to be despised. It proceeds from the joy of God in creation and to "rejoice in the Lord" is to rejoice in His works.

Paul tells us that he has learned in Christ how to be abased and how to abound, how to be full and to be hungry. There is a neglected text-on how to abound, how to be full, how to enjoy at a season like this the good things that are offered without excess and without forgetting the needs of others. It is not part of our Christian duty to carp and to criticize the natural outflow of enjoyment at the Christmas season. Rather should we learn to reflect the joy of the Creator and know what it is to take what He gives us and rejoice.

Yet every Christian knows in his heart that no amount of rejoicing in God's creation and happy enjoyment of his world and the society of others can overlay the undertones of doubt and conflict that sound within us. Our iov must have a still deeper source. The New Testament is vibrant with a joy that is more than a reflection of God's joy in creation. It is the response to God's joy in redemption-to that mighty act by which He visited and redeemed His people and came "to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

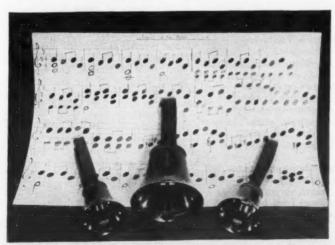
Here is the one point in the long human story where a certainty is given to man that his spirit of rejoicing has a sure and lasting foundation. For here the joy of God is linked, and linked forever, to the destiny of the human race. This is a joy that is no faint and distant echo of a divine self-satisfaction. It is the meeting place of our mortal fear and uncertainty with the immortal joy and confidence of God. When Jesus was born, the unlimited, all-embracing love and joy of God

(Continued on page 55)



A choir of youthful handbell ringers can add something special to worship services and the experience of playing can mean a great deal to the young people, too,

Bell Ringers Choir



Music for handbell ringing is written on large charts, sometimes with the notes in different colors for those who do not read music. Bells weigh up to five pounds.

By JANE KIRK

THE time is the Wednesday before Christmas. The place: the lawn in front of the Village Lutheran Church, Bronxville, N.Y. The lighted Christmas tree and the bright-colored stained-glass windows set the scene for Christmas. The night is chilly, but bonfires burning brightly about the yard give cheer and throw their flickering light on the faces of the church members and neighborhood friends. There is a hush of expectancy from the audience now. And suddenly the thrilling sound of bells breaks upon the clear night air. Is it chimes or a carillon? Is it a special organ effect?

"Here come the handbell ringers!" whispers someone. "Watch!"

And sure enough, out of the church comes a procession of pretty teen-age girls dressed in purple cassocks and white cottas with purple cathedral hats, each carrying a pair of upturned bells. As they march, they ring the bells in a harmony of sound, each girl shaking her bell when the note it plays is called for in the music. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," may be the tune, or some other lovely Christmas carol. Behind them follows the singing choir, singing the words of the carols, but above it all sounds the unusual and lovely effect of the handmade English bells.

Rev. Howard L. Halter, pastor, appears on the outdoor pulpit to give the invocation and take his part in the service. There follows a program of Christmas music, with audience singing, special solos by the handbell ringers and the singing choir. Everyone goes home at last inspired and uplifted by the joy and beauty and spirit of Christmas they have shared.

It was only four years ago that Miss Doris Voester, for the last 12 years director of music of the Village Lutheran Church, secured a set of bells and began training a group of seven girls for the Concert Bell Choir. In almost no time she had them playing for church services. Since that time, the handbell ringers have contributed much to the beauty of the musical portions of all services and special musical events held at holiday time. There is something about bells that is just right for Christmas.

Perhaps you have heard handbell ringers perform and believed it was far too technical to be possible in your own



The Christmas Road

By RUTH C. SANBORN

Hymn: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Prayer Hymn: "Silent Night" (1st verse softly sung)

Prayer: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, enfold us in Thy love. May we see beyond the glistening worldliness of Christmas and glimpse Thee in Thy humble manger bed. There may we kneel in deep humility and give our lives—our gift to Thee. Amen

Meditation: Christmas has become commercialized. Even in the heat of summer the advertisements prompt us to "buy for Christmas and save." Earlier and earlier each year the decorations go up—the carols are played—until we wonder what has happened to the birth of the Christ Child that it should be so separated from its true meaning.

Christian families are challenged to put the "Christ" back into Christmas. It requires more than words, however, it requires doing. To adults, much of the wonderment of this holy day may have become lost. Unless we search again with childlike eyes, we cannot make the Advent season glow for those about us. This year as we walk down the Christmas road let's seek out those beams from the Christmas star.

There's the wonder of Christmas—the sense of newness that comes with the strains of the first carol—the smell of the hemlock and spruce, spicy on the night air. "It's Christmas again," we say, and we are caught up in the stirring deep within our hearts as we see the Christ Child, glimpsing anew the path of love He has laid out for us.

There's a joy at Christmas, Burdened by the weight of our daily lives, the troubles and frustrations of modern living, we seek anew the happiness the Christ Child spread over all the earth. The angels sang with joy. So we learn, too, to open our hearts to the knowledge that God sent His Son into the world to bring light and love to men burdened with care. We learn anew that being Christian can be a joyful, happy experience, with the Lord of Love using our hands to spread joy and happiness to all within the circle of our lives.

spread joy and happiness to all within the circle of our lives.

There's the tradition of Christmas, What can more wonderfully cement the Christian family together than the beautiful tradition of Christmas. It is the foundation of our faith—the advent of the Son of God into the world to bring the miracle of love to all generations. Our children do not have to seek a faith—it is there for them to build on. In its beauty and sacredness they will discover new facets for living. Tradition does not bind, it builds. On its firm foundation each generation can progress into a fuller, richer Christian experience.

There's a challenge to Christmas. With all its beauty, its joy and wonderment, it fills us with a deep desire for sharing. Christmas is not a refuge from reality but a strong, compelling force which should send us back into the world of reality ready to do something about our faith. It should make us burn with a desire to send forth the angels' song to the far corners of the earth. If it does not do this, Christmas is only that sentimental commercialism that greets us in every holiday advertisement.

This year as you walk the Christmas road, seek out the wonder of the Saviour's birth. Let it fill your heart with joy as you celebrate this tradition passed down to you these nearly 2,000 years. Accept the challenge it gives you and walk out into the new year, your heart singing with the glory of the Saviour of love and life.

Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World"

church. Perhaps you have never even heard them played, but the idea appeals to you as it did to Miss Voester, who remembered them from girlhood days in her native England. Then you can probably find the answers to your questions by hearing how this averagesize church worked out this project.

First step toward starting a group of your own is to order the bells—because it takes at least two years to get them. There is only one firm, in England, which makes them—the Whitechapel (London) Bell Foundry, now known as Mears and Stainbank, where Big Ben and the Liberty Bell were also cast. The bells all have to be handmade and hand-tuned. This takes some time, and you have to wait your turn in the production line.

You can start out with a set of 12, which costs approximately \$225. Bells are priced according to their size, and the lower toned ones, which are bigger, cost more. Some groups feel that 12 bells are sufficient. The Cape Anne Ringers, a group of six girls from Gloucester, Mass., who have played for the President in Washington, feel no need for more. With 12 bells there is not so much harmony; you will be able to play only simple two-part melodies. The Village Lutheran Church started with a set of 12 and later added more, bringing the total to 43.

Each church must develop its own technique and methods of teaching the young people to play, because there are no set directions for this. The only book on the subject is A Manual of English Handbell Ringing, by Scott Parry, published by Whittemore, Boston, Mass. Miss Voester has succeeded in working out a simplified method of notations and charts, so even those who cannot read notes can play handbells.

AT one time handbells were played with a director standing before the group to "point them in." In other words, each one played only when the director pointed at him. No responsibility was placed upon the individual to read music for himself. This system is hardly used at all any more. Miss Voester writes out the music for her handbell choir on large charts. Sometimes the notes appear in colors so that a person who cannot read music can play whenever his color appears on the staff. Someone holding the A and G bells, for instance, plays only when the green notes appear and others are noted in red, blue, orange, etc. Some charts have letters, indicating when the low bass bells are to be played.

Once you get started in handbell ringing, you may become affiliated with a group known as the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, which will be of great assistance to you.

They meet annually "to exchange ideas related to the selection and organization of music, techniques for ringing, methods of instruction, conducting techniques, arrangement and management of concert programs and the dissemination of handbell information."

"I personally think handbell ringing is a marvelous youth activity," says Miss Voester. "With a singing choir every group has its prima donna—the one with the best voice. There is nothing the others can do to keep up with him. But in ringing no one child becomes glorified above the others. Everyone has an equal opportunity, and teamwork is the important thing. This provides marvelous training in loyalties, too. If someone decides not to come to rehearsal, the group can't play. In this way everyone feels a tremendous responsibility."

On occasions when illness keeps one member away, one or more of the group takes an extra bell, for it is possible to hold two bells in each hand and ring satisfactorily. But if several are absent, the group simply cannot play.

Handbell ringing is excellent training in co-ordination. The bell must be (Continued on page 54)

Holiday Decorations from Yarn

ORNAMENTS for the Christmas tree, lapel pins, Christmas cards, and decorations for the house—all can be made out of yarn now. Here is some clever new craft work to try your-



self or to make an interesting activity in a Scout meeting or other children's activity. Some of the designs are crocheted; no crocheting or knitting is required for others. Send for the new booklet, "Make It Yourself for Christmas," Star Christmas Book No. 142, from the American Thread Co., 260 West Broadway, New York 13, or find it in your local knit goods store. It costs 10¢.

"Christmas Bubbles" are large openwork balls made by winding heavily starched yarn around inflated balloons. When dry, the balloon is deflated and removed, and the yarn stands by itself. Fill it with evergreens or glittery bells or baubles and hang with a ribbon bow. Crocheted stars and balls trimmed with glitter make clever new ornaments for the Christmas tree. Christmas cards are made by pasting %-inch lengths of yarn into attractive designs. Fluffy yarn is used to make a Christmas tree centerpiece and a furry lapel wreath.

Swedish Christmas Brunch

A CHARMING ceremony for a morning meeting during December is the custom observed in Sweden on St. Lucia Day, December 13, when a lovely young girl in a white gown with a bright red sash tied about her waist and wearing a crown of seven lighted candles on her head brings in a tray of steaming coffee and Christmas breads. The crown of candles must be made with care, so that no accidents occur, and we would really recommend battery candles.

Perhaps you would rather have the coffee poured at a table by one or more hostesses, and let the young lady simply pass a large tray of various kinds of special homemade breads. A traditional Swedish Christmas ring with citron and cardamom would be good or you may use other delicious favorites of your own. If yours is to be a luncheon or supper meeting, you can still give it a Swedish character by serving in smorgasbord style.

A crown, the traditional Swedish symbol of bounty, makes the perfect centerpiece for your smorgasbord or coffee table. You may be able to find one of the glass ones which were so popular a few years ago, or a straw

one, now being sold in some city stores. Otherwise, make your own. Cut a piece of lightweight gold cardboard into a band 26 inches long and 1% inches wide. Glue ends together to form a circle. Cut three strips of gold cardboard, 20 inches long by 1% inches wide. Criss-cross strips in center, and paste ends at evenly spaced intervals to the band of the crown. Cut a hole in the center where all three strips cross, large enough to run a fat red candle through it. Fill the inside of the crown with oranges or apples or mixed fruits, which will hold the candle firmly in place. Add pine twigs around the base of the crown and tucked in among the fruit. The candle will be lighted, of course, while the refreshments are being served.

Straw is the most suitable decoration for a Swedish Christmastime affair, as the Nordic countries all feature much of it in their decorations, associating it with the straw in the manger where the infant Jesus was born. You can make the crown described above of strips of braided straw, which will be more authentically Swedish. For added attractiveness on your table place little straw animals and dolls around the

crown centerpiece. Many of these come from Sweden, but it is fun to experiment with making them yourself out of straw from the fields, sipping straws or garden raffia. Tie dolls or animals into proper shape with red string or yarn. Reindeer, men and women are easiest to recognize.

IF you are making Christmas decorations of wheat, oat or rye straw, you must use only whole, uncrushed stems. To prepare the straw, cut off the grain heads and joints, and gently remove all husks, Soak straw in hot water for several hours before you work with it.

A program for this occasion might be a travel talk about Sweden, a word picture of Sweden today, prepared by some member, including discussion of Sweden's position in world affairs, its royal family, the famed Nobel prize, its industries, arts and natural beauties. Or, someone might do research and tell of the ancient Norsemen and how Christianity was introduced into Sweden. Or, coach a group of children to give a little performance of the Swedish tradition, skipping around the Christmas tree and singing the Swedish carol, "Christmas Is Here Again."

Did you ever

WEEP OVER JERUSALEM?

The Lord Jesus Christ did!

He knew that an unbelieving Israel would pass through times of hatred, massacre, and exile such as no other nation has ever endured.

If you knew the heartaches of these scattered sheep of the house of Israel and the cruelties they are suffering even today, some of it at the hands of so-called Christians, your heart would bleed, and you too would weep.

In this rapidly closing hour of grace, when the sinister shadow of Antichrist hovers nearer and nearer, there is a special urgency in God's desire that Israel shall receive kindness and mercy from His true followers. The Abrahamic covenant is still valid, and God will bless him who brings blessing to the Jews. What greater blessing could we bring to them than the Gospel of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ, their savior and Messiah.

Will you become a partaker with Him of His sorrow and love for Israel? Will you hold us up in prayer as we seek by His power to publish widely and fearlessly the message of "Behold your God"? God's interests are in Israel. Are yours?

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. Psalm 122:6

Come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel. Num. 10:29.

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BELL RINGERS CHOIR

(Continued from page 53)

held in a certain position because the clapper is set so that it strikes only when moved in one direction. Held sideways the clapper does not move, and the bell does not sound. Miss Voester's choirs hold their bells in an upward position, braced against their shoulders, poised ready to play. Then the bells are rung with an open swing outwards and upwards, so that the tone blends as it rises. The group plays simple music from memory-carols, processionals and recessionals, which must be played while marching. For more complicated music in church services, charts are set up before them, and the director leads them for rhythm and unity.

MISS Voester pointed out the infinite possibilities handbells offer. Besides use in actual church services, women's groups are eager to learn to play for their own membership and for the creative satisfaction to be found in it. It gives the feeling of playing in an orchestra to people who have no musical training. The sound produced is satisfying, because the bells are made so that when struck they always respond with a beautiful tone and do not need special skill to draw out lovely sounds. Bells have had great thera-

peutic value to handicapped persons and mental patients.

Three groups of bell ringers are all Miss Voester has time to oversee at present, in addition to her other duties as church organist and trainer of four singing choirs, although many others are eager to take part. There are 30 youngsters in the three bell choirs. The first consists of second, third and fourth graders, who play occasionally for the Sunday school and go caroling at Christmastime to the hospital and homes of shut-ins. All in the second group are junior high girls and the third group senior high.

Any problems to this bell ringing activity? Well, blisters are the biggest, and innumerable boxes of Band-aids are used, as the friction of the bells' leather handles in tender young hands is considerable. Still, there is always a competition among the ringers for the biggest bells, even though some weigh five pounds each.

Handbell ringing can make a beautiful addition to your church's musical program. Don't hesitate to attempt this because you think it too big an undertaking, if you have someone who knows a little about arranging and directing and who is willing to try something new (so old it's new).

Christian Herald Large Quantity Recipe



CRANBERRY TURKEY SALAD (for 40)

Layer 1

Unflavored gelatine	env.
Cold chicken bouillon 1	cup
Hot chicken bouillon 2	cups
Salt 1	tsp.
Lemon juice 4	tbsp.
Mayonnaise 3	cups
Diced cooked turkey 4	cups
Minced green pepper 1/4	cup
Diced celery 3	

Soften gelatine in cold chicken bouillon. Add hot bouillon and salt and stir until dissolved. Cool, add lemon juice and mayonnaise. Stir in turkey, green pepper and celery. Pour into large mold; chill until almost firm. While this mixture is chilling, prepare the following cranberry mixture.

Layer II

Unflavored	g	e	1	a	ti	ir	16	9											4	envelopes
Cold water											۰	4	0						2	cups
Hot water															,				3	cups
Salt																			1	tsp.
Lemon juic	e																		4	tbsp.
Jellied crar	ab	е	r	T	v		S	a	u	C	e								4	1-lb. cans

Soften gelatine in cold water. Dissolve in hot water, stirring thoroughly. Add salt and lemon juice. If desired, cut ½ inch thick slice from jellied cramberry sauce; cut with scalloped cookie cutter; reserve for garnishing finished mold. Crush remaining sauce with a fork. Add to gelatine mixture; beat with rotary beater until smooth. Turn on top of first layer. Chill until firm. Unmold and surround with cabbage slaw.

REJOICE

(Continued from page 50)

shrank to the size of a tiny infant cast helplessly into a troubled and warring world, that you and I might know where lies the true balance of power in this perplexing world. It lies with Him-this Child of Bethlehem and the work of redeeming love that was to carry Him through the short years of service to a cross and beyond it to a resurrection for us all. It was because the end of the story is pure joy that the angels sang over His cradle, the shepherds glorified God and His mother magnified the Lord and rejoiced in God our Saviour. This is "love divine all loves excelling" for it is the "joy of heaven to earth come down."

Rejoice in the Lord! The solid ground for our Christian rejoicing is nothing less than this: that in spite of all the heartaches and horrors in the world, in spite of our moments of depression and anguish, in spite of the violence that has over the years desecrated the very land of the Saviour's birth, God has given us in Christ His pledge that the goodness, innocence and joy which shone from the manger at Bethlehem are the strongest and the ultimately victorious forces.

We have all known something of the joy of creation. Do you know this joy of redemption-the real meaning of the angel's song? There is one simple test that we can make. If today you were facing a Christmas of desolation and despair, without enough food, without contact with your friends, without material prospects for the future-if you were a refugee-could you still "rejoice in the Lord"?

The true Christmas spirit is not, "Let's be gay for there's plenty to eat and drink and we've lots of family and friends." The true Christmas spirit is, "My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." I rejoice because the Son of God Himself knows what it is to be hungry, to be a displaced person, to be abandoned, to be betrayed." This is why He came to earth, and because He has come and gone through it for us, we know that in the end love is stronger than hate, unselfishness than selfishness and joy will conquer sorrow.

And so on the first Christmas morning the shepherds went back to work. The whole of creation looked different. And as they watched the Roman legions clanking past on the high road, and heard from a nearby cottage the cry of a hungry child, and perhaps from over the hills the vast sigh of a world weary for redemption, they knew that a light shone into the darkest places and the way was now open for every trusting soul to find his way through the gloom into the eternal joy of God. THE END

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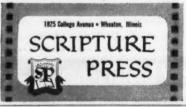




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December 7

Jesus' Power in Human Life MARK 5:1-13, 19

Power is a key word. Jesus claimed power and exercised it. He came into a world where power was the goal of human ambition, Military power supported the Roman empire. It fastened Roman authority over the known world. True, it established a form of law and order and protected the individual rights of its citizens, in theory. But the emperor was above the law and by bribery and other pressures, the rich were able to dominate the poor, Today, international relations are built on balances of power. Security is purchased at the cost of ever increasing taxes. "Retaliatory power" is the key to diplomacy. The world is not too much different today from the day of Jesus.

Yet there are differences. Conscience is keener today. The rape of Hungary would have passed unnoticed in the first century. "Let those who can, take" was the law of the world. The power of Christ has been at work, depending not on military or economic might, but on love, John Paul Richter said that "with Jesus' pierced hands He had lifted empires off their hinges and turned the stream of centuries backward in its channel." Without the power of the Gospel there would be no United Nations, no programs of world relief, no sense of responsibility for underprivileged nations and races. Christ brought God actively into the picture, concerned and at work to establish justice and freedom.

Most of all, in individual life Christ is "the power of God unto salvation." The power with which Christ drove out the devils on the eastern shore of Galilee is most wonderfully seen in conversion. Members of Alcoholics Anonymous speak of God as "the Higher Power." The same Power that turned denying Peter into the courageous preacher of Christ and changed persecuting Saul into persecuted Paul, is redeeming men daily from the evil

power of alcoholism, lust, selfish ambition and all the demons enslaving man. The day of miracles is not past. The power to work them is not in us until we open the door of our hearts and let Christ in.

December 14

Jesus Works Through Disciples MARK 6:6-13, 34

"Two by two, they are the head of the column, that long line of witnesses which winds down through the centuries and out to the ends of the earth. the Big Parade of all history," writes Halford E. Luccock in Interpreter's Bible. Some of the provisions for this evangelistic tour were no doubt temporary. Certainly the disciples were not to be hampered by too many provisions for their own comfort. It was to be a quick tour, a laboratory experience in the kind of life they would lead after Pentecost, Even in Paul's time, while he supported himself partly by tent-making, he began to see that support from his fellow Christians would be needed for full-time evangelism. The disciples must become aware of the tremendous responsibility Jesus would place upon them. Jesus had no other plan for evangelizing the world than the personal witness of His disciples. He has no alternate plan in the twentieth century.

There is an over-emphasis on "come and sit" in our churches. The "come" of Christ is not balanced by His "go!" Church doors should swing both ways. The very weight of our responsibility to witness to the world demands coming to the altars of worship in church and home. Christ gives us our commission, our authority, our power to witness. We cannot cast out twentiethcentury demons by human wisdom or power. The wisdom and power are Christ-given and we will fail if we neglect their source. There is no place for spectators in this arena. To have heard "The Old, Old Story of Jesus and His Love" is demanding as well as comforting. If it means anything important to us, how can we be so unexcitedly quiet about it?

December 21

The Significance of the Saviour's Birth

LUKE 1:46-55; 2:4-7

Magnificat is the Latin word with which the song of Mary begins. It has been used as the title for the hymn from very early times. Probably the Magnificat has been sung in church services since the first century. Mary adapted much of the Song of Hannah to her purpose (1 Samuel 2:1-10). It reveals her acquaintance with the Scripture of her people and her fitness to be the mother of our Saviour. Did not Jesus' ability to quote from Old Testament begin at His mother's knee?

Mary is so full of joy at the prospect of bearing Jesus that her heart overflows. Yet, humanly speaking, she should have been humiliated. Her hasty journey to her relative Elizabeth paid off in the assurance that she was to bear no ordinary child. It confirmed the angel's assurance at the time of the annunciation. It wiped away all worry and made clear that her humble station in life was within God's purpose, a good reason for her selection to be the mother of a child who would lift fallen humanity, redeeming man from sin.

Sentimental celebration of Christmas surely does not do violence to the Gospel. It is good that children should be made happy on Jesus' birthday. Giving gifts to those we love is also good. But we must not lose the significance of Christmas under its trappings. God became flesh on that first Christmas, to dwell among us. The music of Christmas should be exultant, sinners overflowing with joy in the assurance of salvation. In home and church the deepest joy will not be centered in gifts but in The Gift of

• December 28

Jesus is Christ the Lord MARK 8:27-35; MATTHEW 16:16

Christ and Messiah are exacty the same in meaning, the anointed one. Christ is from the Greek, Messiah from the Hebrew. They are titles. The Old Testament records the Jewish hope of a Messiah to come in God's good time to lead Israel to freedom. It was the one sustaining hope when the Jews were in exile and under the harsh domination of an Eastern empire. The Jews read into prophecy their own longing for another golden age for Israel, like that of David and Solomon. They entirely missed such passages as Isaiah 53, where the Messiah is revealed as suffering, a sacrificial Lamb.

All through the ministry of Jesus He was being tempted to be the kind of Messiah His people expected. Even His disciples held fast to their inherited concept of the Messiah. He tried to tell them of His coming death and Peter spoke for all of them when he said, "This shall never be." This hope of a material kingdom Jesus marked as Satanic. It offered wealth, power, national freedom and racial superiority. It was devastatingly self-centered.
The King of the Jews gave a new

definition to kingship. The power of His rule was the winsome power of love. He came not to be served but to serve, not to save His life, but to give it for the salvation of all who would respond in love and trust, "God's glory is God's majesty become operative on man's behalf. Glory is majesty active in love," says D. T. Niles. Peter had the words in which to answer correctly Jesus' question, "Whom say ye that I am?" But he had hard, bitter lessons to learn before he sealed his confession with his own blood. We must face the same question, each of us! We can mouth the words, thinking to use Christ to realize our own national, racial or personal ambitions. Only when we are willing to take up our cross and follow Him have we made a God-pleasing confession.



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NEW BOOKS

Reviewed by DANIEL A. POLING

MANY WINDOWS, by Faith Baldwin (Rinehart, N.Y., 219 pp., \$3.50).

Faith Baldwin, scintillating and brilliant, in her latest book Many Windows opens wide the window into her own heart and life. On these pages the always maturing mind and sensitive heart of the writer weave sentences that whisper and sing of those deeper things to which we all respond but which so few are able to make articulate

In the mood of the months-December to January, April to May, and on through August into November and December, again Faith Baldwin speaks to you and to me of her rendezvous with life. Here are two sentences suggestive and inviting: "God moves, we are told, in a mysterious way, but how mysterious also is man, trying and failing, advancing, falling back, and again moving on; never wholly known to, or understood by, himself or even the person closest to him on earth. But known completely, understood completely, by God alone, Who patiently moves through His creations." Selection of Christian Herald's Family Bookshelf.

YOUNG PILLARS, by Charles M. Schulz, creator of "Peanuts" (Warner, Anderson, Ind., \$1)

I do not review paperbacks, but this is not a book. It is a collapse in the aisles. It will do more to relieve tensions, restore the tired businessman and make human beings generally fit for the ordeals of life than anything that has come to my desk in a long, long time. The cartoons are simply indescribable. Here is contemporary humor at its side-splitting best.

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER, edited by Elaine Rich (Herald Press, Scottdale, Pa., 391 pp., \$3).

This is an exceptional book in a crowded field. Twelve busy Christian women have produced a valuable treasury of inspiration. These pages contain a meditation for each day of the year. Written by Christian women for Christian women, the volume is equally valuable to every member of a Christian and, indeed, of a religious family.

ISLANDIA, by Austin Tappan Wright (Rinehart, N.Y., 1018 pp., \$5.95).

This is the most distinguished revival of a decade in the world of fiction-titanic fiction. The author embarks with his readers on a mystical journey to a never, never

land but under his eloquent guidance, the journey itself becomes an adventure most real. The novel is at once philosophical and realistic with a certain suggestion of laughter in the background, never far away. Does he really mean it? But you do enjoy the journey and presently are quite convinced. Not for church libraries.

LINCOLN FINDS GOD, by Ralph G. Lindstrom (Longmans, Green, N.Y., 120 pp., \$3).

This is a delightful and unique addition to the library of Lincolniana. It is a penetrating search—the search of the great liberator for a personal God and then for God in the civic life of the United States. Lincoln passed through a heart-searching and revolutionary period of intellectual skepticism but he passed through and came into the presence of the living God. His was never a "doctrine" of commitment, but his was a complete spiritual commitment.

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CHRISTMAS—An American Annual of Christmas Literature and Art, edited by Randolph E. Haugan (Augsburg, Minneapolis, 68 pp., \$3.50).

The distinguished Christmas book the Christian Church waits for, portrays in glorious paintings and vivid dramatic text the Christmas story according to St. Luke and St. Matthew. Prose, poetry and illustrations combine to make this the finest of a great series.

TARBELL'S TEACHERS' GUIDE to the International Bible Lessons, edited by Frank S. Mead (Revell, Westwood, N.J., 380 pp., \$2.75).

Over the years this volume has become one of the most popular teaching aids. Under the editorship of Frank S. Mead, the high standard of the past has been maintained and enriched,

THE SHORT SUMMER, by Loula Grace Erdman (Dodd, Mead & Co., N.Y., 304 pp., \$3.50).

This is another of the characteristic and delightful novels of an author whose growing reputation is established in a wide circle of appreciative readers. It is the chronicle of a family that lives and laughs and loves, has plenty of troubles, but finds the rewards of good living.

BESIEGED CITY: THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD, by Denis Baly (Seabury Press, Greenwich, Conn., 146 pp., \$2.95).

This book is a tocsin for all Christians, particularly for all Christian laymen. It is fundamentally theological, but it is vividly personal and a dynamic call to the Christian layman to engage with faith and service in the activities of the Church.

THREE WHO VENTURED, by Myles Connolly (J. B. Lippincott, N.Y., 248 pp., \$3.75).

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Vew Books for Children

Reviewed by MARION W. FARQUHARSON

MOSTLY MAGIC, edited by Jeanne Hale, Nora Beust, Phyllis Fenner, Bernice E. Leary, Mary Katherine Reely and Dora V. Smith. For the first volume of the Through Golden Windows series, a team of experts in children's literature has made an inspired selection of old and new classics among stories for pre-school and primary children. Format and print are excellent, and best of all, the book is illustrated with the original or the best-known illustrations, most of them in color. For parents, there is a valuable feature in the subject index which stresses character traits and lists stories to use in illustration of each.

In spite of the beauty and value of the book, we hate to think that any child might miss knowing such books as the tiny, original edition of Peter Rabbit with all the pictures instead of a few. Volumes 1 through 5 of Through Golden Windows are for ages 5-9; volumes 6 through 10 are for ages 10-14, (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, \$3.95 ea. vol.; \$19.75 ea. set; 10-vol. boxed set, \$39.50)

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT, by Antonio Frasconi. With fine modern woodcuts the artist has illustrated this nursery classic, presenting the text in both French and English. Antonio Frasconi has made valuable contributions to the furtherance of his belief that all small children should be made aware of other languages. His picture of a dog that worried the cat seems confusing, but the other illustrations have real appeal with their bold blacks and touches of bright yellow, pink and green. (Harcourt, Brace and Co., \$3)

THE WORLD OF CHRISTOPHER ROBIN, by A. A. Milne. Illustrated by E. H. Shepard. This delightful volume combines the poems of When We Were Very Young and Now We Are Six. Like The World of Pooh, issued last year, it adds eight colorful illustrations by the artist who did the original black-and-white sketches. The four books combined in these two volumes should be owned in some edition by every well-informed child. The small, original volumes are easier for a child to hold, but the new volumes have illustrations in color. (Dutton, \$3.95)

FAIREST LORD JESUS, by Frances King Andrews. Illustrated by John White. A very briefly told life of Jesus with short (5- or 6-word) lines, a Scripture reference on each page and Sunday-school-paper type illustrations in full color. For primary age. (Broadman Press, \$3)

MOSES AND RUTH, two books by Maud and Miska Petersham. It's good to

see these colorful picture stories from the Bible back in print. The many full-page and smaller illustrations in lovely color and in black and white are authentic in detail as to costumes and background, and ably supplement the simplified text. (Macmillan, \$2)

ALL THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD, by Helen Doss. The author of The Family Nobody Wanted, who has herself adopted 11 mixed-race children, has expressed her ideas on the value of individuality in color, features, interests, etc. Her idea deserves a more distinguished format, but the book is a worthwhile one to use with pre-school and primary ages. (Abingdon, \$1.50)

THE CHRISTMAS HEART, by Gertrude Haan, Growth in understanding, forgiveness and love result in the giving of two Christmas gifts (their owners' dearest possessions) in this modern Christmas story for girls of 8 to 10. Fine reading for the Christmas season. (Grand Rapids International Publications, \$1.50)

THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM, by Elizabeth Coatsworth. The author's beautiful poetry has long graced the pages of her books of fiction for older children, but this is one of her few poetry picture books. There are three stories told here-that of the animal's long journey to the ark, a medieval legend of the animals who visited the Child on the road to Egypt, and the story of that peaceable kingdom where "the lion shall lie down with the lamb." Fritz Eichenberg has given movement and life to the rhyme with his spirited pencil drawings in sepia and soft blue. (Pantheon, \$2.75)

THE MAGIC FEATHER DUSTER, by Will and Nicolas. Will and Nicolas have achieved a fine feeling of originality and folk-tale quality in this picture-story which is superior to any other book they have done. There's real humor in lively illustrations and text from the first page to the last. For the picture-book age. (Harcourt, \$3.25)

LITTLE BURMA, by Robert M. Mc-Clung. A boy, a dog and the first elephant to arrive in America share the spotlight as the heroes of this fine story for boys. Little Burma arrived in America in 1796 and Ben, the runaway bound boy, with his dog Ruff, got a job caring for her and teaching her tricks as they traveled the road with Mr. Owen, the elephant's owner, and Hank, a boy Ben has trouble understanding. Good reading for 10- to 12-year-olds. (Morrow, \$2.95)

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR TODAY

(Continued from page 28)

down to a service at Bowery Mission to compare it with a mission in Washington, where I had served for a time as a volunteer. This time I sat in the chancel with Pastor Bolton, even gave a Scripture Reading from the pulpit.

But one day I found myself with just enough funds to get me back to Washington. Which I promptly did, to find my little shop padlocked and a notice pasted on the door that I had not paid my bills. (They do this in Washington!)

Heavy laden!

I stared long and hard at Christ's invitation to "come unto me all ye who ... are heavy laden," which is beautifully inscribed, high on the wall of Bowery Mission's sanctuary. I was waiting for services to begin one evening about two weeks after I had knocked on the door and asked to be helped.

Yes, I was heavy laden! But of course, so were the derelicts in the

pews surrounding me.

5

Yet, I was quite a bit different. First, I was clean and sober. Then, I had dug my own hole and climbed into it. Most of these men here had been pushed into holes they had not made, Also, I knew something of the Lord before I came to the Mission-this second time, to sit in the pews.

And the crowning, ironic difference, one that almost made me laugh out loud as I mulled over it-I had \$15,000

in the bank!

"So, all right, you benighted fool," I told myself, "what are you doing among all these penniless vagrants; what are you doing seeking charity?"

The bank had not given me a dime! And they will not, until I am 68-and I am now 53. I relived now the sequence

of events:

When I arrived back in Washington to find my shop padlocked, I had 35 cents in my pocket. My pride would not let me go begging to my friends.

There was only one thing to do-get out to Nebraska and talk to the officials of the bank that held my trust fund and get them to release enough of the money to enable me to re-open my

But how to get to Nebraska on 35¢? So here was another ironic situation -I, a watchmaker, would have to pawn my watch! The pawnshop gave me a fair sum for it.

At the bank, the answer was no! I myself had so tightly sewed up the fund, the bank could not give me a

penny of it.

But realizing my dilemma and trying to be helpful, the officials suggested litigation. They cautioned me, how-

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ever, that it would be expensive and long drawn-out. I couldn't afford the time or the money.

How about a loan? I asked. The bank president replied: "How can we give you a loan when you have no income, no means of re-paying?"

On the train back East, I pondered my situation and found it almost hopeless. I could get no money; I could get no work. Setting up office systems was out—since my last employer had fired me as being no longer competent. Watch repairing? Alas, my eyes were beginning to fail me—chronic glaucoma, the specialist had said.

I needed material aid, but even more I needed spiritual aid. When my train pulled into Pennsylvania Station in New York, I headed for the one place where I knew I would secure both.

I sat there now, looking again and again at the inscription, while the organ played and hymns were sung and while Pastor Bolton talked about Christ and His infinite compassion for such as I and His promise of help in times of stress. . . .

A thousand golden candles lit up in

"Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give YOU rest"

That YOU was ME! The Son of God will give ME rest!

At the invitation I went forward and I think I wept as I knelt at the rail that night, but there was a stout arm around me.

THE END

GOD'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

(Continued from page 26)

that made no sense at all. This puzzle was more baffling than the original one. Certainly I could not ask Mother about it, even indirectly. She would know then that I had been reading information not meant for my eyes.

My guilty knowledge almost spoiled our shopping trip for me. I kept thinking about God's Gift even while I was selecting daintily embroidered handkerchiefs for the two Grandmothers.

Finally the morning of Christmas Eve arrived. I will never forget that day. With keen pleasure I helped Mother wrap the last of her gifts. They were for the Crandalls, the family of Mother's old school friend who was now an invalid. The two young daughters were to receive warm coats and cheerful red dresses as well as the glamorously dressed lady dolls that the girls had requested. Ten-year-old Thomas was to have a new blue suit, a wind-breaker, and a whole box full of boy-interest books. (He was a great reader.) A soft quilted dressing gown was for Mother's friend, Mary Crandall, and white shirts and new ties for her mission-minister husband. With candy, fruit and fruit cake added, we drove out the dusty country road.

As we came up to the thin door, we could hear Tommy speaking.

"It'll come. I know it'll come. You said prayers are always answered."

Laden with gifts, we stood outside waiting for an impoverished man of God to reply to his trusting son.

"Yes, Tommy, Prayers are always answered, but many, many times not the way we hope and ask them to be. Sometimes, He says: 'No.'"

"Not this time, Dad. I know. That bicycle's coming-sure as anything."

"We'd better not stand here any longer, dear," Mother whispered. "We wouldn't want them to think we were deliberately listening." I reached up and knocked on the door. In an instant, 10-year-old Tommy, eight-year-old Mary and six-year-old Susan were swarming over us. The girls had to try on their dresses and coats right away. While they were changing their clothes, their father hastily put aside their dolls for a Christmas morning surprise.

"I'll sit in the other room by the window if you don't mind. I'm expecting something," Tommy explained.

"See! See!" the girls shouted as they whirled and danced around the frugally furnished room before their mother and father. "We look like Christmas! We look like Christmas!"

Their mother's eyes were filled with tears. "You're so good to the children, Dorothy. To all of us. I don't know what we'd do without you. The summer clothes you bring the children just before school's out, those for school each fall—they're a God-send."

"It's a privilege," Mother answered quietly. "You know how I love sewing."

As the women talked and the little girls preened, I watched Mr. Crandall frowning.

"I can't make Tommy understand." "Understand what?" Mother asked.

"That a bicycle for him is absolutely out of the question. He knows we can't give him one. The church people can't. No one he knows will. That's all right with him. He accepts that knowledge. But he's certain that a red bicycle is coming for him this Christmas. From God. His faith is so strong today. What will it be tomorrow?"

Mrs. Crandall reached over and caught hold of her husband's hand. "Don't worry so, George. When the time comes, you'll know what to say."

Just then we heard a heavy truck grind to a stop outside. At that same instant Tommy burst into the room.

"It's come!" he shouted. "I know it

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has. Come see! Come see, everybody!"

Mr. Crandall, the girls and I rushed to the yard. Mother was only steps behind us. Sure enough the truck driver was lifting a bright red boy's bicycle. "You Tommy Crandall?" the man

asked, "This must be for you."

Lovingly Tommy wrapped one arm about the handlebars and caressed the frame as he gazed up at his father.

With his face glowing as brightly as lighted Christmas tree, Tommy closed his eyes and bowed his head. "Thank You, God! Thank You!"

George Crandall stood beside his son, openly weeping.

"It's a lovely bicycle, Tommy," Mother said, "Don't you want to take it inside? Your mother must be wondering what we're doing out so long." We left for home soon afterward.

That day I learned what my mother meant by "God's Present," and the remembrance stands out vividly after all these years. God's Gift! The anonymous gift that is the real answer to someone's fervent prayers. The gift for which somebody gives thanks to God.

Although Mother must have carefully chosen God's Gift each Christmas, only once more did I even get a hint of what it might be. When I was 19 and home for the Christmas holidays during my junior college year, I went to see a friend from high school who was getting married in a few days. Although Kathy Burnham had been working for over two years while I had been away at college, most of her money had gone back to her family to help support her numerous younger brothers and sisters. The trousseau she showed me was simple and inexpensive until she came to the last box.

"This is my treasure," Kathy explained. "I did so want to be clothed in beauty when I came to Joe as his bride. Now I shall be-and I don't know whom to thank but God.'

Then she raised the lid of the box and tenderly folded back the blue tissue paper inside until shining white silk and lace were disclosed. Finally a hand-made set of slip and gown with matching fine lace on each lay spread out on the bed. Kathy was gazing at her gift too rapturously to notice how I stared. That lace matched exactly the new pattern used by Mother on garments which she had just finished and tucked away in my own hope chest.

Mother and I never discussed God's Gift. I never disclosed to her what I had learned-not even when I started putting God's Present at the very top of my own Christmas list.

For years I kept my own pledge of silence. But recently I convinced myself that not sharing our family habit of celebrating Christmas was a selfish thing to do. God needs all of us to help Him answer prayers. THE END



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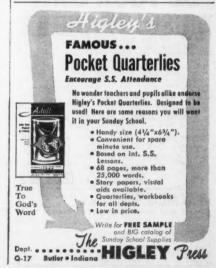
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CHRISTMAS IS AMERICA

(Continued from page 22)

Ossining testified that the Nativity scene represented the greatest of all historical events. But briefs supporting the ban against the display were filed by the Westchester Ethical Society, the New York Board of Rabbis, and the American Civil Liberties Union,

But in one particular the "majority" will do well to listen to the minority.

In late September of this year, an 11-foot statue of the Virgin Mary, the largest that could be found in Minnesota, was mounted on the steps of the state capitol in St. Paul as part of the celebration connected with the Family Rosary Crusade.

In Highland, Indiana, outside the City of Hammond, the plans of the Knights of Columbus to install a 20foot crucifix in the public park in collaboration with the American Legion and the Boy and Girl Scouts to commemorate men of all wars was vigorously opposed by the Greater Hammond Ministerial Association, because the crucifix in the words of this body is "a sectarian religious symbol," The Association affirmed that the erection of the crucifix on public property violated constitutional principles.

Certainly the erecting of a crucifix on public property is open to question. And is the crucifix or the cross necessary or even properly associated with the Christmas crèche? Indeed, the community crèches that have attracted my attention have not included the cross. The crucifix is reverenced not only by Roman Catholics but by multitudes of Protestants in Anglican, Episcopal. Lutheran and the Churches of the East and other denominations, but it is not used in their regular or special services by multitudes of Protestants. To many of these it may be objectionable as indicated by the action of the ministerial group in Hammond, Indiana. The purpose of veterans organizations, the Boy and Girl Scouts, as well as by the Knights of Columbus, to raise a crucifix on the public square met with solid opposition that did not stem from the Iewish faith.

As Christmas is America, it is America only in those aspects that up to now have been accepted as universal. The fact that leaders of the organized campaign to remove the Christmas program activities and symbolism from the public school and community life may be willing and even eager to have Hanukkah also discontinued does not mitigate this organized rising tide of controversy throughout America.

There can be, of course, no reasonable objection taken to the cross or crucifix when these appear on church property. And it would be, I think, a very splendid and appropriate thing for churches and synogogues of all faiths to fill their holiday and holy seasons with the symbolic beauty that distinguishes them and is uniquely theirs.

In a great American city where a magnificent new church edifice is just now being completed, the Christmas crèche with the symbolism of the Roman Catholic Church has filled the eyes of the entire community as it passes by. Nor have I heard one word of criticism.

Until these more recent unhappy times there was never from any group among us the suggestion that the Christmas celebration in public schools and on community property, with the singing of carols and with the distinctive Christmas crèches, any more than the Hanukkah festival of lights, was the propaganda effort of a particular sect or faith. It was America singing and marching, praying and rejoicing together in the joy voiced first, perhaps, by the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth, by the Dutch on Manhattan Island, by the Roman Catholics in Baltimore, by the Jews in Newport. And echoing over the land through all the following years, Christmas has been and is, and surely it should be, forever America, THE END

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOSPITAL

(Continued from page 23)

I wondered about many things, What facts were accumulating on my chart? What notes did the doctors write each other? What instruction did they leave for the nurses? To me the instructions were simple: "Stay flat in bed and as quiet as possible. You may have a pillow under your head, but don't put it under your shoulders."

Several patients, including my roommate, were to be discharged before Christmas. No such luck for me! The pain in my leg seemed even worse than the day I came in.

That evening, my room became the center of activity. The nurse explained, "We're going to put you in a different bed." Board, mattress and patient were efficiently transferred to a metal bed. and the more attractive maple bed was pushed into the hall. The resident doctor applied two wide strips of tape the full length of my left leg. There was much tugging and twisting at my ankle during which a board was attached to my foot and then by a pulley to the bed. My leg was pulled straight as they piled on weights. They adjusted the bed so that the foot was higher than the head-and left before I could ask questions.

For a long time I lay flat and tense. When the nurse came around I asked, "Can I move with this thing?"

"It will be easier if you roll over on your hips and then turn the rest of your body. Here, take this."



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The sleeping pill she gave me looked as big across as a half dollar. It had no effect that I could notice. Slowly I turned from one side to the other, searching for but never finding a position that was comfortable. I discovered that if I turned a certain way, I could see my wristwatch in the faint night light. After hours of looking at my watch every three or four minutes, I had a wonderful idea. At three o'clock I decided to play a game with myself. I would resist looking at my watch for a long time so that I would have the pleasant surprise of finding it was nearer morning than I expected. Repeatedly I resisted peeking at my watch. At last, thinking it must be four or five o'clock, I turned so that I could see my watch. It was 3:05.

With morning came a new problem: how to eat in my restricted position. It was easier for me to turn to the right, and my tray was placed on that side. I leaned on my right arm and tried to train my left hand in the use of fork and spoon. Flexible straws that stay bent were a wonderful help for liquids.

The next event was the doctor's arrival. Three of his assistants huddled silently just inside the door. The doctor checked to make sure the traction was adjusted properly. In crisp, confident tones he gave me his decision: "We'll try traction for five days or so; then we'll decide whether to have a myelogram, and on the basis of that, we'll consider surgery." He and his cohorts escaped into the hall just as my world started to crumble. It is a terrifying experience to be tied to a bed while the world tumbles down.

HAD been counting on being able to teach by January 4. I remembered the mathematics and science majors and the engineers in my calculus classes, and I wanted to finish the semester with them. Two sets of test papers were waiting on my desk at home, still not graded. And here I was lying helpless in bed.

I'll be in traction for Christmas too, I realized. And New Year's?

I recalled incidents from my contacts with students outside of class. A student had come to my office for help in integral calculus, "I can't do anything with this problem," he said, "What have you tried?" I asked him.

"The power formula, are tangent or trigonometric substitution?"

He looked so confused that I started all over and gave him a chance to try each possible method. "When you see that one method doesn't work, then try another one," I repeated.

Suddenly I realized that my doctor was handling the problem of my backache much as I approached the student's calculus problem. He had several possible solutions in mind; if one

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method failed, he knew another to apply immediately. What I had interpreted as his jumping from one conclusion to another was really proof of his skill and competence. My rebellion subsided into a feeling of confidence that he would provide competent care.

The comments I began picking up about lumbar vertebrae, sacrum, intervertebral discs and sciatic nerve made me realize that I was entirely too vague about the parts of the human body and how they work together. I asked Dad to bring in my old biology book. The next day after visiting hours I studied the full-page diagram of the human skeleton and relearned the parts of the backbone.

As I leafed through the book, I found a section about the simplest forms of life. I paused to read how the tiny one-celled amoeba moves, takes food and responds to its surroundings.

My eyes caught this statement: "Every living organism must adjust to its environment."

In my imagination Amoeba was telling me: "You have to adjust to your predicament." Resentment welled up in me like lava in a volcano. I had an uncontrollable urge to hurl the book.

A resident appeared at the door. I indicated the biology book and said: "I've just been reading that every living organism must adjust to its environment, I suppose that includes both the Amoeba and me, but I'll bet an Amoeba never gets into this mess."

He grinned. "An Amoeba doesn't have to adjust to traction, but an Amoeba can't do mathematics."

MANY people helped to give us patients a gay Christmas. Our breakfast trays were decorated, There was much excitement as Santa Claus arrived by helicopter at the nearby Children's Hospital. I heard comments about the Christmas tree at the end of our hall, but I couldn't see it. The resident came in to wish, "A merrier Christmas next year!"

I couldn't go home for Christmas, but as far as possible, home came to me. At the very beginning of visiting hours, my mother and dad arrived with brightly wrapped packages. Some gifts had come to my home from friends who did not know I was in the hospital. It was exciting to see the lovely packages, and I was eager to open them. After I had opened only a few, however, my arms grew tired and we worked out a system. I admired each package and read the card. Then Mother and Day took turns opening and showing me the gifts. All too soon, visiting hours were over. It had been a happy time together.

After they left, I felt lonely and completely exhausted. Perhaps we had worked too hard at trying to be gay. With the future so full of uncertainties, the gaiety had a somewhat brittle quality. Christmas in our family was usually a day of deep joy with emphasis on the real meaning of the celebration. How could one celebrate Christmas lying in a hospital with no chance to go to church or to sing carols?

At bedtime I had a pleasant surprise—a telephone call from my brother and his wife more than 2,000 miles away. It was heartening to receive their good wishes and to hear how they were spending the day. Immediately I phoned home to pass on the news. My mother was playing my favorite record of Christmas carols, and I could hear the lovely music in the background as we talked.

As soon as Christmas was over, my attention centered on December 27, which would be the fifth day of traction. The day before Christmas my doctor had told me: "I'll see you in three days, Then we'll decide what to do next."

December 26 turned out to be a long day of waiting. When the resident stopped in, I tried to be cheerful and said, "I can stand traction one more day." He was concentrating on my chart and didn't answer. I continued, "I'm going to try not to cross bridges until I come to them."

He agreed, "That's a good policy." The next morning I found that such a policy was not easy to follow,

Anxious incomplete thoughts tumbled around and around in my mind. Today I find out. When will the doctor come? What will he say? Will I take it decently? God, help me to be calm. But would prayer help? What good had it done me to pray that God would make me strong and steady?

Maybe I haven't been really praying, Perhaps I've just been knocking frantically on the door of heaven and shouting at God. I smiled a bit at that picture and then more seriously wondered what God is like. Why does He listen to us? How does He answer?

I remembered the experience of others. I thought of those whose struggles have brought forth words of faith and confidence. "The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth."... "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."... "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"... "Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me."

As my attention returned to my hospital room and the expected visit of the doctor, I knew that I had gained a new perspective. I still wondered what the doctor would say, but the fear and panic were gone.

I was still marveling at my new

sense of composure when a group appeared at my door. "Good morning, Doctor," I said with a smile. "I hope you had a happy Christmas." As he answered my greeting, he commented with a faint hint of surprise: "You're making progress." Afterward I realized that this was the first time he had seen me smile.

After a thorough examination of my back and leg, he reported his findings.

"You're making good progress. Do you want to continue with conservative measures?"

"Yes, I do."

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"Very well. We'll go on with conservative treatment. We'll see about a brace." He quickly hooked up the

traction and was gone.

I tried to comprehend what had happened. Yesterday my hope had been, "Only one more day of traction." Now I was undismayed at the prospect of many more days of traction, I was no longer afraid of tomorrow, no longer antagonistic toward the doctors and their treatment. Now I seemed to be part of the harmonious forces that were working for my recovery.

In the days ahead I was aware of God's presence and His blessing. I did not ask God to run His fingers along my backbone and push everything into place. But gradual healing seemed to me no less a miracle. I knew that the doctors and nature's healing powers were working to get my backbone in proper alignment, but the most difficult task was getting my attitudes in proper alignment. And God took care of that.

When I concentrated on my own troubles and uncertain plans, I became more frantic with each new idea. When I turned to God and thought of His love, I became calm because I knew I could trust Him. In faith, I put my future in His hands. That made the difference. Then my strength was no longer drained away by worry and I could concentrate all my energy on making the best of each moment.

The next time the resident stopped in, I confessed, "It wasn't very smart of me to brag on Monday that I could stand traction for one more day, but it was very wise of you not to make any comment. Now I'm learning to stand traction one day at a time."

The day came when I could report to my doctor, "I'm perking up. I can even sleep with traction." Soon after that he began taking off weights, one

or two pounds each day.

As I lay flat, day after day, I noticed that I was fascinated by any reference to walking. In whatever I read, the word "walk" leaped before my eyes. In a helpful devotional booklet which our minister brought me, I found one of my favorite hymns. It had a new emphasis: "O Master, let me walk with Thee." (Continued on page 92)



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Don't Give Grandma Roller Skates!

... and give your church something useful and appropriate for Christmas. Remember the gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh ...

WHY not a Christmas gift to your church? But be sure that it is something your church can use. It is always a good principle in giving to give something that the one who receives the gift can use. You do not give your grandmother a pair of roller skates, unless she is an unusual grandmother! You do not, if you are in your right mind, give to George, a promising halfback, aged seven, an encyclopedia set bound in leather.

A Christmas gift to God—it is a thought to conjure with! Easy, sentimental praise is of no use to God. But the gift of your *mind*—that would *be* a gift! To allow your ideas to be formed by the mind of Jesus, to love what He loved and to hate what He hated—that would be a fit Christmas gift for God. The gift of your strength—to refuse to accept our world as it is as the best

possible, and to work daringly for a more Christian order of life—that will be a gift to go with the gold, the frankincense and the myrrh of the Wise Men

But put the question in a different way: Is your *church* on your Christmas list? What a power of rare beauty a church can have at Christmas!

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways; Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.

And at Christmas, when the lights glow and you have decked God's house with holly and sung "Joy to the World," it becomes even more dear.

So, why not a gift this Christmas to the church, something that will not only increase the ministry of the church, but also carry the remembrance of some faithful member's life and its influence through the years. This brings me to Anna Kate.

Anna Kate was a Sunday-school teacher, and a gift of God in the lives of a steady parade of boys. A friend, so deeply indebted for what Anna Kate had done for her son, made a gift to the church in honor of Anna Kate. And now, years later, "she being dead, yet speaketh," through the gift.

The gift in honor of Anna Kate was one of the fondest, fairest memories of my life. I have forgotten lots of things in my life. I am lucky to be able to remember the multiplication tables up to nine and I can only dimly remember what historians say happened in 1492. Much else is a blank! But I do remember Anna Kate and the gift to the church in her memory—two beauti-

(Continued on page 81)

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST FOR YOUR CHURCH

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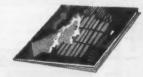
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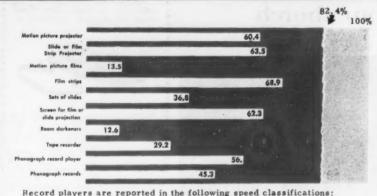
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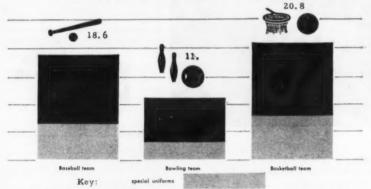
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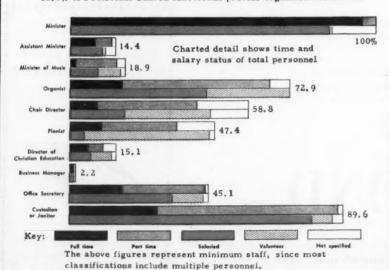
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By C. HARRY ATKINSON

your church-and if you, a churchmember-could know how other churches are spending their money, what they are buying, what they are building, whom they are employing, the extent to which they depend upon volunteer staff assistance, you would learn a good deal about religious trends. Perhaps you would also receive guidance in shaping your own church program-and in answering such simple but sometimes nettling questions as: In how many other churches does the minister wear pulpit vestments? Should you expect your church pianist to give her services without cost?

The trouble has been that information of this kind just was not available. That is why, early this year, Christian HERALD'S Protestant Church employed an independent agency to gather the relevant facts, A statistically sound sampling poll was taken of Protestant churches in the United States-the first of its kind. Pastors or other spokesmen for these churches were asked more than 200 questions about almost every conceivable area of church administration. As a result, we know a great many things about how churches are doing their job that we never knew before.

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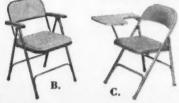
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ing spent, fifty to sixty cents are expended for Christian educational facilities—a far cry from what prevailed a quarter of a century ago, and one of the distinguishing characteristics of American church life. Most churches have educational space within or immediately attached to their places of worship. However, 35.2 per cent of them have erected separate buildings for Christian education. Campus style buildings are increasing in numbers.

The study shows that 31.8 per cent of the churches have some kind of library facilities. These 63,600 libraries are equipped and appointed to encourage research and study as well as to afford opportunity for members of the congregation to select worthy religious reading geared to their interests and capacities. Churches large and small are using these means to improve the quality of their religious instruction, and are purchasing carefully selected books and equipment to make their libraries efficient and available to a great number of people. The location of these facilities is about equally divided between the educational buildings and the church proper.

Chapels (54,800 of them) are found in 27.4 per cent of the churches. This reflects the constantly growing emphasis upon the need for quiet places where people may draw apart for private prayer and meditation or where small groups may worship in surroundings which are appropriate. A great many churches keep their chapels open daily to the public. Children's chapels, which were very much in demand a few years ago, are not now as common as they used to be. Only 8.2 per cent of all churches provide chapels for

children's use only.

Audio-visuals, formerly looked upon as a mechanical gadget approach to Christian education, are now being successfuly integrated into the regular teaching procedures of many churches. At present, 82.4 per cent of Protestant churches own some kind of audiovisual equipment. In churches of under 250 members, 69.7 per cent have A-V equipment and 30.3 per cent do not; in those of 250 to 500 members, 90.7 per cent have A-V's and 9.3 per cent do not; over 500 members, 92.4 per cent have A-V equipment and 7.6 per cent do not use such materials. The modern miracle of electronics as a means of communication is coming to church, no longer as a plaything but as a set of tools with great possibilities for heightening teaching impact.

Although 93.4 per cent of the churches in our study report that 86.2 per cent have wash basins, 89.6 per cent have toilet facilities of some sort and 76.4 per cent provide paper towel dispensers, far too many need to acquire and maintain higher standards of

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sanitation. It is not enough to have them; they need to be kept scrupulously clean and presentable.

Public sanitation authorities are not only concerned about conditions found in church rest rooms but are rightly insisting upon better standards and equipment for preserving and handling food which is being served to the public. Frequently of late they have taken positive action to insure that churches provide hot water in sufficient volume and with proper temperature to assure proper sterilization. While sanitation and salvation are not synonymous, the church has a moral obligation to keep its buildings scrupulously clean and at least up to established sanitary codes.

The survey reveals that churches have 104,147,480 square yards of tile floor covering, with asphalt predominating, followed by rubber and vinyl. Carpeting of 22,542,020 square yards is also in use. Fifty-nine per cent of churches use carpet in the nave, with an average of 147.4 yards per church; 17.9 per cent of churches use an average of 92.5 square yards per church in the narthex; 11.6 churches use an average of 70.3 yards per church in their Christian education areas. Wood floors are used alone but usually with other types of covering. The proper selection, installation and maintenance of these floor areas lends attractiveness to the interior of the buildings, saves the church dollars, prevents accidents, eliminates unpleasant odors and contributes to livability.

Church suppers, butt of many a wisecrack, are on the increase. The survey findings show that 89.9 per cent of the churches have regular kitchens variously equipped and 17.9 per cent have auxiliary kitchenettes. Protestant churches serve more than 565,000,000 meals each year. Apparently we have not yet devised a better way to bring people together for Christian fellowship than to seat them about tables while breaking bread. While by no means an end in itself, the church supper wisely used can be and frequently is a means of extending the church's friendship and effectiveness.

Despite the national emphasis upon safety and the importance of having first-aid equipment available, only 27.4 per cent of the churches keep any firstaid equipment at hand to cope with emergencies or sudden illnesses which are bound to occur where large numbers of people are assembled.

Fire prevention and protection equipment, both as safety measures and as conservers of church assets, are sadly deficient. Only 1.9 per cent of the churches have sprinkler systems and only 8.2 per cent have installed lightning rods (even though the latter are about 90 per cent effective). Although 44.9 per cent of churches have

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CHICAGO 1 III. LOS ANGELES 28 CAL 228 N LaSalle St. 1634 N Cahuenga Blvd some sort of hand fire extinguishers, which most certainly serve a useful purpose, most church fires start and gain headway while the buildings are unoccupied. This points up the need for some sort of horn or bell alarm system for the 97.5 per cent of churches that do not have some such warning device.

The survey makes it clear that music and the church are inseparable. Multiple choirs are everywhere in evidence. Churches are including adequate choir rooms and other needed equipment in their buildings. Pianos, organs, record players, and religious recordings are increasingly in demand.

Out of the 80 per cent of churches reporting on music, 53.6 per cent have electronic instruments, 28.4 per cent have pipe organs. Grand pianos are found in 22.6 per cent and uprights in 60.7 per cent of churches. Upright pianos outnumber grands 10 to 1, Reed or pump organs are still found in about one per cent of churches.

Carillons, bells and chimes are reported in 40.6 per cent of churches. These include electric carillons, found in 5 per cent; tubular tower chimes in 1.6 per cent; cast bells in 3.3 per cent; single bells in towers of 13.5 per cent.

Another interesting discovery is the increased use of robes and vestments in Protestant churches, For many years a large number of churches frowned upon the use of vestments for their ministers and robes for their choirs. Paraments for adorning the chancel and the communion table were practically unknown in many branches of Protestantism. A marked change has taken place. Today, 53.8 per cent of all Protestant clergymen and 76.4 per cent of all choirs are vested. Children's choirs follow much the same pattern as adult choirs.

It would seem that churches are striving to bring greater dignity and reverence as well as beauty to their services of public worship. This trend is reflected in the fact that 44.9 per cent of the churches included in the study have altar paraments; 18.2 per cent have dossals; 44.9 per cent lectern and pulpit adornments.

Altar sets, including crosses, vases and candlesticks, are now found in 56.6 per cent of churches reporting on these particular items. Christian flags are in evidence in 65.7 per cent and American flags in 67.6 per cent of churches.

Recreation, particularly for the younger generation, is a matter of concern for the great majority of churches. As a moral and physical equivalent for the woodpile, the farm chores or the routine tasks that once developed the physique and drained off the physical energy of youth, 62.3 per cent of Protestant churches are now providing some kind of organized recreation.

There are organized baseball teams in 18.6 per cent, bowling teams in 11 per cent, basketball teams in 20.8 per cent. There are 37,200 baseball teams, 22,-000 bowling teams, 41,600 basketball teams, 83,600 Boy Scout troops and 44,000 Girl Scout troops. More than half of the churches with 250 or more members have one or more Scout troops. Almost 85 per cent of church-sponsored troops use church facilities. Only 2 per cent of the churches have adequate facilities for team activities.

These same churches employ staffs totaling over a million persons including ministers, organists, choir directors, pianists, directors of Christian education, building custodians, office secretaries, and-newest of all-church business managers. Today many larger churches are employing full-time salaried persons, usually laymen, with business or managerial experience to administer the business affairs which often make too great demands of clergymen whose skills and training are needed and should be employed in pastoral ministries. These managers are employed by 2.2 per cent of churches, Many ministers of music, organists, pianists, choir directors, office secretaries and custodians are employed on a part-time basis. Musicians generally give a great deal of voluntary service. In most categories voluntary service exceeds that of fully-paid or even part-time paid musicians.

A SSISTANT ministers are on the staffs of 14.4 per cent of churches, ministers of music in 10 per cent, choir directors in 58.8 per cent, organists in 72.9 per cent, directors of Christian education in 15.1 per cent, office secretaries in 45.1 per cent of churches. There is a constant demand for fully trained and competent persons.

Some 83 per cent of churches are equipped with offices. From these 166,600 offices flows a tremendous volume of correspondence and information. The effectiveness of the present day church is thus conditioned to a great extent by the mechanical equipment and office help made available to it. At present there are 246,804 typewriters, 88,600 addressing machines. 185,260 duplicating machines, 13,200 folding machines and 2,600 mail meters.

Better gadgets, more comfortable buildings, highly polished floors, better sanitation, good property administration and the like will not, of course, usher in the brave new world envisioned by the Christian Church, At the same time, we need to remember that religion does not find its fullest expression in dismal surroundings.

Better tools and facilities skillfully handled can speed up and heighten dramatically the churches' religious impact upon this generation. The End

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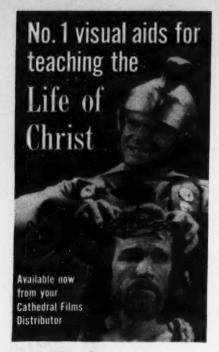
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how to use

in your church

By WILLIAM S. HOCKMAN

Slides and Filmstrips; Selecting Operators

Slides Are Useful

A teacher wanted four slides. Only four. They were to be in color, and she wanted them showing Jesus healing people. They could help her tell about one of the things Jesus did for other people.

She had flat pictures of scenes in the life of Jesus, but these were for small or table-size groups of children. Today she wanted all her kindergarten children to see at the same time. This meant she would need a slide which would give her a projected picture.

With it on the screen, all the children would see the same thing at the same time and she could tell her story to all of them at once. This would be a variation on the usual procedure (of small group stories) and add interest.

She found just what she wanted: four slides from the set based on the beautiful Elsa Anna Wood series. (Available from Society for Visual Education, 1345 Diversey Parkway, Chicago 14, Ill.; catalogue free upon request.) For each she developed a little commentary. It helped the children understand the picture—just what Jesus was doing and why. It tied in what they had been learning on Sundays prior to these pictures.

This teacher likes slides because she can select just what she wants from a long list. She can make them fit both her purpose and her children's capacities. They are easy to use, also. With little people, even projected pictures can exhaust their attention and learning drops off fast after that. Four slides, of lovely composition and color, with two minutes to each slide, can make a powerful and lasting impression.

New Christmas Filmstrips

I would use Christmas Riddle and A Pony for Christmas with primary and junior boys and girls to supplement and enrich their Sunday-school lessons. The first has for its settings a church-school class, where the teacher gives her group a riddle to be solved, and the home of one of the pupils where the riddle is solved. It accents beautifully that the birth of Jesus was God's great gift to the world.

The second dramatizes the true spirit of Christmas in the lives and relationships of two boys. Each is thinking of the other as the problem of Christmas presents is solved in God's triangle of Mother, Father, Children. Both are in color with LP (33% rpm) recorded commentary which combines narration, live dialogue and orchestral background.

I would use them, also, as program material for Christmas parties at the church. After active games, they would be just about perfect to quiet the children down while the refreshments are being readied. Incidentally, I plan to offer them to my families for their use in the neighborhood parties which so many of them give. This will double their usefulness.

Junior children especially will enjoy two other filmstrips in this new series: Stories About Christmas Carols and Stories About Christmas Traditions. They will enjoy the new art form into which these instructive filmstrips have been cast—a new Christmas-card style which makes each frame a picture in itself. Getting away from cartoons and caricatures, these two filmstrips will be enjoyed for the design, color, and conception of each picture.

In addition they tell their stories delightfully. In the first, the audience participates in singing of "Away in A Manger," "We Three Kings," "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night."

Just about every one enjoys learning about our Christmas traditions: the Christmas tree, candles, mistletoe and holly, poinsettias, the Yule log, the Christmas foods, the crèche and the giving of gifts. Here is rich material not only for Juniors in church school, home, school and neighborhood parties, but material that adult groups as well will enjoy. Here is enrichment material for family nights, for adult groups in church, for youth fellowship groups, for use by women's groups and circles. Produced by Family Filmstrips, Inc., and available from most A-V dealers at \$10 for the filmstrip, the printed guide-script and the 12-inch LP record. (Continued on page 80)

NEW from Kodak ...a single-case, portable 16mm Pageant Projector with BIG SOUND and PICTURE CAPACITY!

Here's a portable 16mm sound projector with plenty of power for use anywhere.

The new Kodak Pageant Projector, Model AV-255-S, has a 25-watt amplifier that delivers *all* the sound you need. Used with the matched, heavy-duty 11" x 6" oval speaker in baffled case, it's right for large rooms like lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries.

Teamed up with the Kodak 12-inch Deluxe Speaker (or built-in speaker systems), it's fine for auditoriums and gymnasiums.

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With this new Pageant you can use the extra-powerful 1200-watt lamp. This, along with the Super-40 Shutter that puts 40% more light on the screen than ordinary shutters, gives you plenty of light for "long throws" and big screens.

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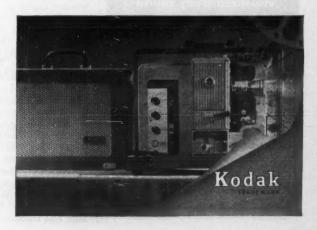
EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY Dept. 8-V, Rochester 4, N. Y. keep records. Your Pageant is ready to go on with the show whenever you are.

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See it and hear it at your convenience at any Kodak AV Dealer's. Or, write for details.

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Who Operates Equipment?

One of our readers wants to know how to solve the problem of equipment operation. "Who is to do it, a squad of boys and men or someone in each and every group?" he asks. In this question the two main ap-

In this question the two main approaches to the solution are stated. Some churches have followed the advice, widely given, that it is best for the church to train a group of operators. They can be boys or men. Some churches prefer men to boys, thinking them more dependable. Others report good results with Operators' Clubs.

At one time public schools favored the squad-of-operators plan. Many still do. However, as the use of visual and audio materials has grown in both school and church, the notion that the teacher herself should operate the equipment has also grown.

I have followed both plans, and have come to prefer the one in which each component group of the church has its own operator. I found that my high-school boys were not available on week day afternoons when women's groups might be meeting. Indeed, they were often unavailable on week nights because of home-work, social or school-activities. This meant that I had to have adult operators for these times.

Instead of keeping to the squad idea, I tried another tack: asking each department of the church school, and each group of the church, to provide one or two people, of their selection, who could be trained to operate equipment. Thus, when this group had something audio or visual planned, the securing of an operator was greatly simplified. They can be trained one by one-the method I much prefer-or they can be instructed as a group and then given individual coaching in the basic skills. The best and most skillful of such a group can operate for the larger all-church events, I find,

Use Slides For Lent

Have you ever thought of building your Lenten series-for week nights or Sunday night-around the interpretation of some of the great art masterpieces? It has been done, and I recommend it. One minister got his slides from SVE (1345 Diversey Parkway, Chicago 14, Ill.) and built a service around each. Slide and Scripture, and hymns, and prayers were related to a central theme for the service. It was a new experience for his people. He liked the new format, and pitched in with enthusiasm. Working in a new pattern, he was more creative and stimulating than in the old groove.

With the picture on the screen, he gave his meditation. It was geared to the meanings which the artist had put into the picture. In this way his message was visualized as well as spoken.



ROLLER SKATES!

(Continued from page 70)

ful candlesticks. I was to see them through the years and they always spoke to me, saying that Anna Kate was "a burning and a shining light."

She was one of an amazing trio whom the people of the church came to call "April, May and June." They had Sunday-school classes, through which a group of boys, promising young candidates for juvenile delinquency, passed in three successive years. These three women did for the boys just about what April, May and June do for flowers and fruit,

A mother was the one who got the boys first. She ploughed up the ground and planted the seeds. A school teacher had them the next year, and the process went on. Anna Kate was a secretary. She brought the whole thing to fruition. It was a marvelous demonstration of the succession of influences described by Jesus, "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." And we had it right in our Sunday school.

It was hard to deal with Anna Kate. She never was shocked, and so there was no use trying to shock her. She would never scold. Just when we were "showing off" in top form, she would throw a look of infinite pity, which spoiled the act. Misbehavior lost its charm for us.

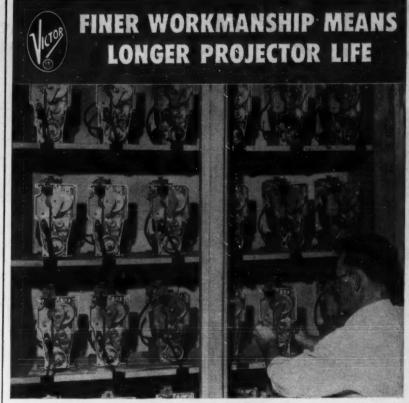
The shining and burning candles in Anna Kate's candlesticks brought it all back to scores of boys, both to those who stayed in the city and those who returned. Through the years, the candlesticks had a great ministry. They have been, for many, Anna Kate's light shining on.

Other gifts, out of a wide variety which add to the church's power to serve, can do the same thing. So many things can adorn the house of God, and carry on the influence of a life.

A man laughingly paid tribute to the physical size and weight of a larger man when he said, "I went into the bank today, and it was full of Charlie Smith." In a more noble sense that can be true in many places. It can be supremely true in a church. Often the church is just full of a "Charlie Smith"—some layman, kept in the grateful memories of his fellow church members and ministering on and on through the stimulus of a gift to the church in his name.

And there is this to keep in mind: we cannot overestimate the importance of the church school in the onsweeping life of the church and the world. When Hans Christian Andersen, the wonderful Danish writer of fairy stories, was dying, he gave directions about his funeral. He had finally become recon-

(Continued on page 93)



Operation of projector mechanisms in "run-in" cabinet is one of many quality controls that assures long life of Victor projectors.

Victor sets highest standards for projector quality

Victor 16mm sound projectors have justly earned a reputation for turning in extra years of trouble-free service. Just take a look at any new Victor to see why—and you'll find the answer in quality workmanship and materials that meet the most rigid specifications.

For example, every projector mechanism is operated continually for 6 hours to check performance before complete assembly. Each amplifier is fully tested with a battery of electronic instruments. Sapphire-tipped film shuttles are individually inspected under high magnification. Measurements of light output and movement of film over sound drum are made for every projector to assure brightest pictures and clearest sound.

This kind of attention to detail has always paid off in greater dependability and lower maintenance costs with Victor projectors. So compare workmanship before you order your next projector—and you'll be sure to specify Victor.

NEW VICTORS

We wish to obtain the ten oldest Victor sound-on-film projectors still in use—and offer to exchange them for brand-new Victor Assembly 10 models at absolutely no cost. If you believe that your Victor qualifies, simply fill out coupon and mail before this offer expires on December 31, 1958.

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Victor Animatograph Corporation Division of Kalart, Plainville, Conn. I believe that the following Victor soundon-film projector is one of the 10 oldest still in use:

Zone State



BETTER BUILDING COMMITTEES

By EDWARD S. FREY

A CHURCH building is not an end in itself. It is a symbol and tool in the hands of the Christian congregation for the work of the Lord. Church and parish house buildings are a part of the church's business to witness steadily and clearly to the Gospel.

Ministers and evangelists, missionaries and every dedicated Christian regardless of his place in the church organization is a witness. As a member of the Body of Christ, every man is important. At certain times and at certain places there is a special job of witnessing to be done; for example, when a congregation is faced with a building problem. Those active members who for one reason or another seem most competent to discharge this task are appointed by the church. So, for such a member there is added for a time to his daily job of Christian witness a unique opportunity of serving his Lord.

Building committees, however, seem generally to be unaware of their chief responsibilities. Often, much time, effort and funds are wasted because they either do not know or understand what they should do. Often they spend the greater portion of their time attempting to find solutions to architectural problems which they are not competent to solve. As a consequence, their efforts end in frustration or worse.

A prominent architect told me last

summer, "I have a hundred letters of appreciation from church clients, my university has honored me with a degree for distinguished service in church architecture, I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and I love His church but I cannot seem to convince some church building committees that I know a little more than they do about designing and furnishing church buildings. All too often I am asked to design in such fashion as nearly to deny what I believe and to violate fundamental laws of my art."

With good humor, but no less seriously, an architectural consultant once said to me while speaking about the elements of good design, "The great stumbling block to many a good program is the well-intentioned church building committee which is infiltrated with fifth columnists of architecture's or that one must use the wiles of a Madame Pompadour, the obliqueness of a Cardinal Richelieu and the ruthlessness of a munitions salesman."

What is needed most today is church building committees better informed as to their true task. Church building is a deliberate, peculiarly powerful and dramatic way of witnessing. In this strange time when the church in some respects has never been so strong and in others so weak, people building churches must know what they do.

It must be understood that, big or little, a building program is a religious act. Building to the glory of God is an evangelistic enterprise demanding as much intelligence, devotion, Christian faith and stewardship as anything the church of Jesus Christ is ever called to do. A building program deeply affects the whole life of a congregation for generations. The material building is not as important as what is done in it and with it. The daily witness of our faith is first and it is the whole reason for building in the first place.

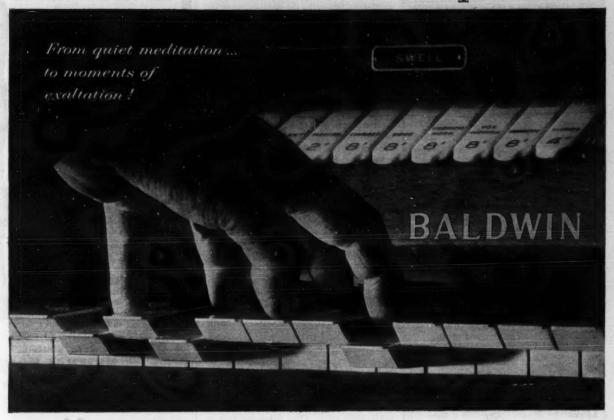
BUILDING committees frequently do not understand this and start at the wrong end of their job. They begin busily with the problems of architecture. What will the building look like? Where will it be placed on the site? How much will it cost? These are certainly legitimate questions but they can be answered satisfactorily only with the professional help of the experienced architect. Under no condition should committees seek to answer these questions until they have studied the life and purpose of the church and of their church specifically, and its program in the community.

The primary business of the building

The primary business of the building committee is to discover the living traditions of the church and the congregation's strategy of witness in the com-

Vast resources of

to enrich and inspire...



A Baldwin Organ in your church will provide just the sound you desire to help establish the proper religious feeling and devotional response. Only Baldwin offers the organist traditional organ tone plus the unique additional resources of tone made possible by modern electronics. Combined with the extensive complement of unduplicated, independently-voiced stops, you get subtle refinements of tone that are truly inspiring... from quiet meditation to grand, triumphant moments of praise and glory. The Baldwin Organ is indeed an instrument of great tonal resources and beauty. For more detailed information concerning the selection of a new organ for your church, you are invited to send in the coupon for Baldwin's free informative new book, "Questions and Answers,"



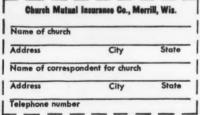
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munity in all the ways that witness is made through worship, education, fellowship and service. The conclusions should be set down in a written "building program." This must be done for the church's own understanding and the architect's guidance. Describing as clearly as possible everything the congregation hopes to do with its new or expanded facilities, is the chief business of the building committees.

To do this, a church building speaks. What it will say to the community and the world depends upon the studies and the conclusions of the building committee and its sub-divisions. The edifice may well say less, but it can say no more, than the builders believe.

If our religious thinking is fuzzy and our ideas about the church's ministry are cloudy, our buildings will inevitably reveal it. John Maas quotes Lewis Mumford in *The Gingerbread Age:* "Architecture, like government, is about as good as a community deserves. A shell which we create for ourselves marks our spiritual development as plainly as that of a snail denotes its species." Our church buildings not only reveal what we believe but they are also an indication of what we are.

Dr. Joseph Sittler, a present-day theologian, said it well in the October, 1953, issue of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary Record: "People are together in response to the Gospel; they have to keep the rain off their heads, enclose the space to keep noise and cold out, arrange the place to sing, speak, teach, behold. Very good. The congregation needs such a building, but there should also be some clear and unsilenceable impulse which leaves us unsatisfied with only that. This listening is not just to a speech; this singing is no concert; this teaching is not just an addition to general education. There is a difference, and one is aware that unless this difference is sharply perceived, clearly defined, realized and announced in material and form, the whole situation stammers its meaning to the world, doesn't speak out clearly. This is why the church, the child and servant of the Gospel, has got to take seriously the planning of its buildings."

This is Dr. Sittler's way of saying that building committees must be able to express to the architect what they know about God. What we believe and all that we want our church to do about it in its building, must be taken into strict account in our planning.

Building committees should do their work thoughtfully. They must be as concerned about what the building says as about the space it provides. They should know what the church is and what its divinely appointed mission is. In the time ahead there will be many temptations to sidestep or forget alto-





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gether the real reasons for building. The official board of the church should initiate the building program by taking a searching look at the church in the light of what the church has always believed it should be. Such a study will be disturbing but inspiring.

Vague ideas should never be allowed to determine what we build. Only our earnest convictions about our Christian faith and what we mean to do with these convictions in our church program should determine the form and function of our church buildings. This places squarely upon the shoulders of the building committee the responsibility of raising such questions as these:

- What is to be the program in Sunday church school as well as in church? What is the whole program in parish education including teaching, study, teachertraining, fellowship, evangelism?
- 2. Who are to be reached? What are their ages, groupings, and individual needs?
- 3. What new methods are to be used in worship and education? What old ones?
- 4. What rooms and equipment are believed to be necessary?

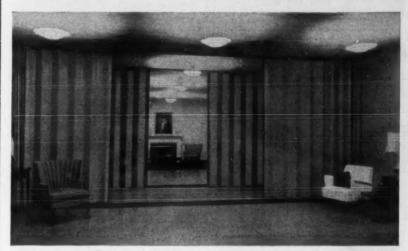
Thoughtful committees will be careful committees. The program facts they uncover will be thorough and will represent sound intentions. The result will be a building that is an eloquent witness and one that will support the congregation's program.

Doing the work thoroughly also means that each activity in which the congregation is to be engaged must be seen in its relation to the whole witness of the church, Regardless of the size or extent of the new building or improvement contemplated, a complete, thorough program should be written. For example, if only one unit of a threeunit master-plan is to be built now, the work of all the units must be thoroughly described even though two of them may not be built for years. If this is not done, the unit to be presently constructed will not serve as well as it might, either now or in the future.

Building committees must serve unselfishly, it almost goes without saying. I can't think of anything a congregation does as a body that is more unselfish than to complete a successful building program. It is a mathematical certainty that the return to us when we build cannot equal the benefit that hundreds, very likely thousands, of other persons will receive from our efforts. The great majority of these persons are not known to us during the time of our effort and most of them will not yet have been born. We simply will not be around long enough to receive the degree of benefit from our labors that will come to many who as children



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will begin their Christian life in the buildings we erect.

Building committees must do all that they do unselfishly because the building is theirs only after it is first for the Lord and others. What they do will have consequences down through the years long after they are gone from the scene. This is why personal prejudices or sentiment or lack of knowledge or any other limitation must not be allowed to color the judgment of the building committee member. He is under the holy obligation to decide everything unselfishly according to one principle: What will serve the Lord and His people best now and tomorrow.

The moment the congregation is satisfied that it has described exactly what it wants to do in its new or improved building, it is ready for architectural service. All sections of the building committee that have been studying and writing the program are now dismissed, their work finished. A small building committee now carries on into the architectural phase.

The building committee must carefully select its architect. The architect they choose will need to be a man who understands what the written program says. He needs to be a man who, in addition to his professional competence, is capable of identifying himself sympathetically with the faith and the work of the church. The building committee's work with the architect is chiefly that of an interpreter of the congregation's life and task. This underscores the importance of spelling out the day-to-day work schedule of the church for the architect.

The problem of actual design is not the committee's business; it is the architeet's. What the building is to say is largely up to those who are the members of the church; this has been expressed in writing. The architectural expression is up to the architect.

Although building committees must say what the church wants and why, they should never dictate the architectural forms by which these requirements are to be met. If the witness of the building is to be understood, it must be addressed to our time and to the community in which it stands. The architect should know how to accomplish this better than anyone on the committee. But architect and committee must work together for vital expression. They must recognize that many of the old symbols of architectural and artistic expression which characterized our buildings in the past have lost their power for to-day.

The architect, then, if he is true to his profession, must with the church try as best he can to speak to the passerby in terms that are alive with the brisk shapes and the symbols and materials of construction which are available to Halley's Bible Handbook

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us in our generation. We need to give our architect some liberty in using his medium as his religious expression.

A church will be wise to avoid any prolonged debate about the relative merits of traditional or contemporary style. On this limited plane nothing can be resolved. Let us at least rejoice in the fact that architects today, when faced with the problem of designing a church building do not sit down to study the blueprints of the eleventh and seventeenth centuries.

Rather than engaging in a wrangle about styles, let both the church and the architect strive to erect a building which is surely and decisively expressive of the Word of God in the life of this American decade. We should be concerned simply that the building bear eloquent outward witness and have inner functional adequacy.

"Oh, yes, this is all very well but the true Christian can find God in any situation," some may say. But most of us find our religious faith through tangible and outward means and events in specific times and places. For us the proportions and design of the church building, its beauty as well as its holiness, are instruments which make the unseen near and real. The building is not the whole story, yet when it is coupled with a congregation whose hearts are warm and friendly, it does become a place where to most persons the glory of God is felt.

All the efforts of the committees and the architect to witness will be seriously handicapped if our buildings do not have their origin in the deep sense that the Church is the Body of Christ min-

istering to a needy world.

Martin Luther once said, "Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the Church. For how can one know where Christ is, and where faith in Him is, unless he knows where His believers are? Whoever wishes to know something about Christ must not trust to himself, nor by the help of his own reason build a bridge of his own to heaven, but must go to the Church, must visit it and make inquiry. Now the Church is not wood and stone, but the company of people who believe in Christ; one must keep company with them, and see how they believe and teach and live."

It has been characteristic of the great ages of church architecture that they rose out of a vital faith. We would do well, then, in our day, to think through our deepest religious convictions and to give them fitting expression in an architecture which makes these convictions intelligible and inviting.

A well-planned, beautifully designed church edifice bears effective witness to that unseen spiritual house not built with hands, of which Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone. THE END

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PEACE ON EARTH

(Continued from page 10)

we have to write down the names of people we love in order to remember who they are? Take that list of yours firmly by the scruff of the neck and move it from its present place at the forefront of your Christmas thoughts, and put it where it belongs: far, far down the line in importance. Remember that "Peace on earth," not "Shop early," was the Angels' message.

You don't have to make Christ's

You don't have to make Christ's birthday a gift-swap. Just this morning I read a statement which began, "The exchange of appropriate gifts is the high spot of the Christmas season." Alas, it is, for many of us.

A dear old friend of mine always said, "Christmas should never be an exchange. I do not give presents to people from whom I expect to receive gifts. At any other time of the year, yes, but not at Christmas. Those especially to be remembered with Christmas gifts are children and the poor."

Perhaps you have forgotten there are such people as "the poor." If you do not know any personally, consult your minister. He knows some. If you live in a city, the Visiting Nurse Association, and the Legal Aid Society can give you the names of sorely pressed people who will be happy for your citte.

If far pastures seem greener, take a big map of some sparsely settled state and look up the names of the smallest towns given. There are bleak lonely shacks in Nevada and Idaho and our newest state, Alaska; there are pathetic cabins tucked away "yon side the mountain" in the Virginia Blue Ridge, and the Tennessee Great Smokies and the Arkansas Ozarks. Dig out such a family for whom to work a Christmas miracle. Write a letter to "Minister of Nearest Church" and address it to this little speck on the map. Ask him for the names of families who could use a box from you at Christmas. Don't send old clothes, not toys your children have pulled the eyes and mechanical insides out of, but brand-new things, giftwrapped and ribbon-tied. Make up a package of small stocking-presents and label it for Mrs. Santa Claus to use. And put in something for a work-worn father and mother.

And as you minister to the needy, do not forget those in your own home, sometimes overlooked in a generous desire to be Lady Bountiful to strangers. Don't let the multitude of friendly, pleasant people on your Christmas card list make you negligent of the home in your special care. These other people are after all only acquaintances, and while the fringes of your heart are big enough to include them, the deep places are not. Give the deep



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places, at this season especially, to your closest, dearest and best; strengthen the ties that hold your family together.

The man of the house-whose peace and comfort at this hectic shopping season are so often completely forgotten-does he look forward to Christmas? Does he dread it because his wife embarks on too ambitious and far-flung a spree of spending and sending and entertaining and party-going? Is there "peace on earth" for him, or is his home in a hullabaloo for weeks?

Are your children loaded with "things," but missing perhaps the really great gift? Are you satisfied with the memories they will have of "Christmas at home"? Incidentally, is Christmas at home, or is everybody dashing off somewhere else all the time? Is the house only a sort of combination dressing-room and post office sub-

station for mailing?

Whatever else you may plan, surely do this: gather your family together at least once during the Christmas season, around the fireplace if you have one, not for a tinny show by professionals, but for talk together about other Christmases at home. Tell the children about the first ones after you were married, talk about the Christmases when they were small, and who did and said what. What pets did you have then? Are there pictures taken of those other times? Get them out: take some more this year. Tie your family group together in affection. This is your golden opportunity of the whole year!

Perhaps some who used to be there in the circle have gone, for a little while, or for always. Talk of them, and of Christmases in which they had a part, Bring them all back home for

this day!

Read aloud a really good Christmas story. Perhaps you have along the vears made your own individual search for Christmas stories, and found some you like. But this one I will vouch for.

It was written by a doctor, and is to be found in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Poverty-stricken indeed is the Christian home in which the children do not have the rich recollection of someone's reading that each year to the family group.

Another Christmas is almost on us. Remember that the very word is Christ-Mass. Draw those you truly love closer to you. Stretch out a full hand, not to other hands already overflowing, but to some whose thin hands are

Christmas is one of the spiritual high places of the Christian year. It should leave behind not exhaustion, not thankfulness that it is over for another twelve months, but an afterglow and a radiance to carry us on through the winter darkness as far as the Easter THE END





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Reviewed by GEOFFREY O'HARA

THE GLORIOUS SINGING of Marian Anderson is available on an RCA-Victor release titled Bach Arias and Great Songs of Faith (LCT 1111). The Bach arias are sung in the original language, German, with Robert Shaw conducting the RCA-Victor Chamber Orchestra. Cross and Crown Are One Together, Jesus Sleeps: I Am Forsaken, Where Streams of Living Water Flow, Prepare Thyself, Zion with Fond Exaltation, Have Mercy, Lord, on Me.

Side Two with its gems of oratorio presented with all the depth of feeling and authority of the great artist is a very distinguished, much out-of-theordinary performance, Charles O'Connell conducting He Shall Feed His Flock, But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own, He Was Despised and Rejected, O Rest in the Lord and All Is Fulfilled. from Handel, Mendelssohn and Bach.

The lovely voice of contralto Evangeline Carmichael is on a disc from Sacred Records titled My Friend and I (LP 8011) with the orchestrations of her husband Ralph. Seldom do we hear the equal for beauty of tone and general effect. The title song with sacred words to the Foster classic, "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," comes as a surprise to some of us and will be resented by others. Songs include Friendship with Jesus, Day by Day, I Found the Answer, Jesus Paid It All, Make Me a Blessing, Now I Know in Part, Moment by Moment, Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart, The Heart Is a Rebel, Have Thine Own Way and The Saviour Is Waiting.

Twilight Echoes with Lorraine Morrison, contralto, Tedd Smith, arrangerpianist (Word Records 3047LP) gives sympathetic renditions of easily understandable songs, with excellent arrangements. What God Has Promised, I Would Be Like Jesus, Every Time I Feel the Spirit, Jesus Gives Me a Song, Trust in the Lord, The Consecration Hymn, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, In Times Like These, No One Understands Like Jesus, I Found a Way.

OR variety in vocals, there is Let's Go To Church from Capitol (T-1042) with a diversity of songs by popular singers. It is nice hearing Jane Froman back with "I Believe," the song that was written for her and which she introduced and popularized. Tennessee Ernie Ford is at his best singing "Some-

body Bigger Than You and I." "There Is Beauty in Everything" and "His Hands." Gordon MacRae is always good, a wonderful voice. He sings "Gentle Hands," "I Asked the Lord" and "Peace in the Valley." You won't find the words "God," "Jesus" or "Christ" in this package. If a song is intended for universal popularity the Deity must not be mentioned. Some of us resent this, but that's the way it is.

Something quite different is Ben and Beth Allen, Christian folk song artists (Alma Recordings BB-7061) singing haunting, lovely religious folk music in its original form, without a drum beat. Their style and interpretation is traditional, sung to the accompaniment of a guitar and harp, with the oboe and flute added at times for good measure. It is an agreeable surprise to be relieved of the incessant beat in so many songs today. He's Got the Whole World in His Hand, I'm On My Journey Home, Be Thou My Vision, My Bible Leads to Glory, Wings of the Morning, Little David Play on Your Harp, Lonesome Valley, Wayfaring Stranger, Pleading Saviour, Long White Robe, Gentle Jesus, Twelve Apostles.

THE vibrachord and cathedral chimes as played by Dr. Charles Kendall in a disc titled Cathedral Chimes from Dot Records (DLP-3101) is very attractive "bell ringing." Dr. Kendall's listeners are myriad and this recording should boost his fame considerably, In the Garden, God Will Take Care of You, The Old Rugged Cross, Saviour Like a Shepherd, The Church in the Wildwood, I Need Thee Every Hour, Sweet Hour of Prayer, God Be With You Till We Meet Again, Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, Holy Holy, O Worship the King, Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, A Mighty Fortress, The Spacious Firmament, All Hail the Power and Onward Christian Soldiers.

If you are unable to secure these records in your community you might write: RCA-Victor, 155 E. 24th St., New York 10, N.Y.; Sacred Records, 500 West Lambert Rd., Whittier, Calif.; Capitol Records, P.O. Box 2391, Hollywood 28, Calif.; Word Records, 3407 Franklin Ave., Waco, Texas; Alma Records, Inc., Reseda, Calif.; Dot Records Inc., 1507 N. Vine St., Hollywood 28, Calif.

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Amahl and the Night Visitors (RCA-Victor, LM 1701) The opera by Gian Carlo Menotti, sung by cast of the tele-

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MY CHRISTMAS IN THE HOSPITAL

(Continued from page 69)

One evening I phoned home to say: "Be sure to read Isaiah 40:31 tonight. It seems so wonderful to me!" I had read these words many times before, but this time they seemed to be written just for me. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

MY classes met on January 4 without me. In fact, I was still in traction. The following morning the doctor examined me with great care, "How do you feel?" he asked.

"I'm feeling fine. I'm getting anxious to find out if I can walk."

He turned to the nurse. "Take off the traction, clean up her leg. Lower the foot of the bed." Noticing my delight, he smiled but insisted very firmly, "Nothing more today."

I wasn't quite so foolish as to think I could jump out of bed and run to the end of the hall as soon as traction was released, but I was not prepared for the slowness with which muscles return to normal. The first day after traction I spent coaxing my left knee to bend again. The second day I was able to sit up for dinner. The nurse helped me out of bed and held the straight chair steady until I sat down. My roommate, partially paralyzed from a stroke, was also sitting up to eat. When she finished her dinner, she said: "Jean, I can't reach my bell. Will you ring for the nurse?"

"Of course," I answered. "Just as soon as I can get up!" I pushed my tray to the side, leaned forward and—did not get up. My leg muscles lacked the necessary push. The bed was just a step away but I couldn't reach it. Finally I was able to maneuver my bedside stand so that one end was squarely against the wall. The stand was steady enough that I could pull myself up and reach the bell at the head of the bed. When the nurse came, I was glad for her help in getting me into bed. What a relief to lie down!

When the resident stopped by the next morning, I was glad to tell him, "I was up *three* times yesterday and I walked *three* steps! But I guess I won't walk down the hall today."

He suggested, "You might walk to the door and peek out."

That evening as I sat up for a while, I decided to try to reach the door. Cautiously I proceeded from chair to wall to door until I could lean against the door frame and actually look into the hall for the first time in 17 days.

Did the people passing by know what a miracle it is to walk? Did they realize what a wonderful coordination of bone and nerve and muscle goes into every step?

The next day as I got out into the hall, I became acquainted with other patients. Some of them were recovering more quickly than I; others were still tortured by pain of long duration.

Wednesday morning I had a question ready for the resident. "Don't you think that Thursday, the 12th is a much better day for me to go home than Friday, the 13th?" He wouldn't commit himself. "We'll check with your doctor about that. But you aren't superstitious about the Friday, the 13th, are you?"

As I walked around Thursday morning, I sorted out things I wanted to take home. I picked up my biology book and thought once more of the amoeba and me. We were both living organisms, and we both had adjustments to make. "Well, Amoeba," I thought. "How are we doing?"

That afternoon the doctor was satisfied that I had learned how to adjust my brace properly. I was full of questions about going home and returning to work, and he gave answers more definite than before. "Home?" Probably tomorrow. Back to work? In about ten days. See me at my office first."

Friday morning I was sure I'd be home by evening, and I was not disappointed. The doctor came early and carefully explained what I could do and what I shouldn't try to do for a while. Then he signed my discharge and said, "Good-by. Lots of good health to you!"

The morning was filled with pleasant details. I had puzzled over how I could express my gratitude to the many nurses who had helped me so much. Finally I asked my dad to select a plant for their office. When Mother and Dad arrived with a coat for me and a lovely pink azalea for the nurses, I had a note all written:

"I've asked this flower to say 'Thank you' for me to all the nurses who waited on me so cheerfully during the days I could not help myself—the 13 days and 14 hours during which I was literally tied to my bed, and the additional days in which I learned once more how to walk. I appreciate most sincerely all that you have done to get me back on my feet."

SHORTLY after three o'clock the nurse's aide brought a wheelchair to my room and took me to the main desk. As I walked away from the desk, I noticed the clock which I had seen as I came through this lobby on a stretcher. Time was now working for me. I approached the door and pushed



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against it, but it didn't move. Mother pushed it open and held it for me. I walked through the door.

On the right I saw the big sign with the name of the hospital. The sign had a warm and friendly look-vastly different from twenty-four days ago. Now it reminded me of understanding and skillful doctors; of sympathetic and efficient nurses; of strength replacing weakness under God's presence.

With a thankful heart I turned toward the blue Ford my Dad had parked a few feet away. No ambulance for this trip! Just a few steps and I'd be starting home. Just a few steps, but each step had to be careful.

I breathed deeply. What a wonderful world I was walking into!

ROLLER SKATES!

(Continued from page 81)

ciled to the fact that his fairy tales were the best achievements of his life and that he would be remembered by them, if he were remembered at all. One of his directions was this: "Most of those who follow me to the grave will be little children. Have the music keep time to little steps.

What a motto for the church! "Keep

time to little steps.'

A vivid picture of this truth-and it is such an obvious truth that it needs continual stress-is found in the life of Bishop Winnington Ingram of London, a leader in the Church of England. While he was spending a vacation in Scotland, one day out on the hills he began to walk beside a shepherd who was leading a large flock of sheep. The Bishop told the shepherd that he, too, was a shepherd. The shepherd looked a bit incredulous, but he finally asked, "How many sheep do you have?" The Bishop, thinking of his large diocese in London, replied, "Oh, about a million." The shepherd found it hard to believe. Finally he asked the Bishop, 'What do you do at lambing time?'

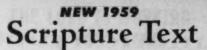
It is a good question for any church. "What do you do with the stream of young life that flows through the church?" For that is the church's

"lambing time."

Back in the Middle Ages, it was in some places forbidden to build a church which did not have "bones of the saints" in it. We in the Protestant churches do not have any so-called "bones of the saints" to venerate, But by the grace of God, there have been "saints," by which we mean "Christ's men and women," to be cherished in the memory and life of the church.

A great word of Scripture comes to my mind with a glow: "Freely ye have received, freely give.

May there be gifts to God's church, too, on the high day of Divine giving. THE END





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motion picture reviews



Paper doors slide back, officials bow as the first American ambassador is ushered into the presence of the Shogun. THE BARBARIAN AND THE GEISHA.



A story which still holds interest in spite of being often retold is the sinking of the Titanic, now in vivid film version, A NIGHT TO REMEMBER.

Film Ratings by the PROTESTANT MOTION PICTURE COUNCIL

The Barbarian and the Geisha (20th C-Fox) How would it feel to be 5000 miles from home alone except for an interpreter and three servants, the natives refusing to recognize your position as ambassador and not willing to sell you food or to allow you to fly your flag? This was the situation faced by Townsend Harris, the first Consul General to Japan about 100 years ago and this is the story of The Barbarian and the Geisha. After many discouragements, Harris' rather high-handed methods, which included burning part of the village to stop a cholera epidemic, paid off and the grateful people made it possible for him to be presented to the Shogun. After much palaver the treaty with America is signed, but not without the attempted assassination of Harris and the suicide of the Samurai member who failed.

The usual Hollywood touch is here—much drinking of sake and a beautiful geisha girl sent to keep Harris happy and to spy on him—all of which may add to the interest but detracts from historicity. The customs and costumes of old Japan are fascinating and music is a pleasant blending of Japanese and western. Oriental members of the cast are more convincing than John Wayne who portrays Harris. The inaccurate portrayal of the American cancels out the value of authentic Japanese backgrounds. Beautiful and impressive.

The Last Hurrah (Col) Colorful por-

trait of a big-time, old-fashioned political boss and his last political campaign. From Edwin O'Connor's novel, this is a picture of election fight and fury, showing the good and the bad in the life of a politician, long-time mayor of an eastern city, the product of an Irish immigrant background. The descendants of the founding fathers take the onus of criticism in the political struggle, some of them being caricatured unnecessarily. When the mayor employs near-blackmail to achieve his ends and makes political capital of a wake, it is almost humorous. Recognizing that rule by personal favor should be frowned upon, still this melodrama of the arch-politician makes him a sympathetic man. Spencer Tracy's performance is superb and well-seconded by an imposing cast.

A Night To Remember (J. A. Rank) The sinking of the Titanic, the ship which "could not sink," is portrayed in a businesslike fashion in this British film based on Walter Lord's book. One has the feeling that this sea drama is a close account of the disaster: the over-confidence contrasted with the dreadful reality, the lack of continuous communications with neighboring vessels which might have assisted in rescue, the human failures and human courage, the suddenness of the catastrophe which had been counted upon as impossible. While this is a "crowd" picture, individuals are followed so that the tragedy is pointed in a personal way. There is no special emphasis on "star" acting but each member of the large cast does his role well. A, Y

Houseboat (Para) Sophisticated farcecomedy built on a succession of far-

fetched situations. A beautiful young woman, daughter of a famous Italian orchestra conductor, sees a chance for excitement in working as housekeeper for a widower and his three children on a houseboat on the Potomac. The children are rebellious, uninhibited, the products of a broken home. The girl is another expression of themselves so they gradually get along and the somewhat unorthodox situation is settled like a fairy tale when the father marries the housekeeper and the family will presumably live happily ever after. The background is Washington and vicinity. Color is too vivid and make-up is exaggerated but the settings offer interest. Well acted, with some nice songs aptly used. Social drinking is accepted as part of the amenities of life.

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (MGM) Tennessee Williams' play majoring on the personal problems of a deteriorating family.

The Wonderful Years (Univ) Young people and their parents growing into

AUDIENCE SUITABILITY RATINGS

A—Adults; MY—Mature Young People; Y—Young People; F—Family

EDITOR'S NOTE: Except where so stated, these reviews are not to be construed as endorsements either of specific films or of movie-going in general. They are for the guidance of readers who attend motion pictures, not inducements to those who do not. The "suitability" classification, moreover, is no guarantee the film is flawless; it is merely a guide.

Films starred (*) are of exceptional merit.



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Damn Yankees (WB) Raucous, vulgar musical comedy in which the devil plays a hand in the affairs of competing ball teams.

Villa! (Skouras, Fox) Pancho Villa portrayed as a Mexican Robin Hood while leading the rebellion.

Tunnel of Love (MGM) Risqué comedy of errors on family life.

The Gun Runners (UA) Gun-running for Cuban rebels paired with character study of a boat owner. Based on a story by Ernest Hemingway.

Ching Doll (UA) Adventure, love and tragedy with the Flying Tigers.

When Hell Broke Loose (Para) An attempt by a German group to assassinate an American general is defeated by a reluctant G.I. who becomes patriotic. Exciting. A, Y

Wind Over the Everglades (WB) The first efforts by the Audubon Society to preserve bird life in Florida. Beautiful birds, ugly human actions.

Money, Women and Guns (Univ) Off-the-beaten-track western sending a detective on a search for the murderers of a man so that his will may be executed.

Tarawa Beachhead (Col) Pacific war drama and comparison between two men involved in conflict.

Onionhead (WB) Caricature of the Coast Guard. Some of the men seem primarily concerned with blondes and bars. Slapstick comedy.

The Hot Angel (Para) Pointless melodrama of uranium prospecting and delinguent youth.

Cop Hater (UA) Homicide in the police department.

Murder by Contract (Col) Murder considered as a possible livelihood.

Objectionable

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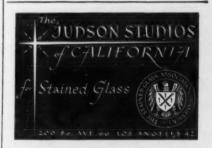
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"Yes," the man agreed. "But mine catches them and buries them in the back yard."

-Future

Sob Story

.

"Father, will you give me ten cents for a poor man who is outside crying?"

"Yes, son, here it is. What is he cry-

"He's crying, 'Fresh roasted peanuts, five cents a bag.'

Shocking

Science teacher: "What did Franklin say when he discovered electricity?"

"Student: "Nothing. He was too shocked by his discovery."

Okay, Carry Them!

A teacher struggled to put a pair of overshoes on a kindergarten boy, After they were on he said, "I know why they went on so hard. They're not mine."

The tired teacher pulled and tugged to get them off again. Then the little boy said, "My mama made me wear them. They belong to my sister."

Two of a Kind

A man wearing a hearing aid entered a taxi.

"Must be tough to be deaf," sympathized the driver. "But nearly all of us have something the matter. Take me, for example. I can hardly see.



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Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Editor, Christian Herald October 19th, 1958

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